LEARNING / F1
Learning to be instruments of God's work

LIFESTYLE / C1
International nature park rises in Palawan

BUSINESS / B1
Gov't weighs options to cover big deficit

WORLD / A30
Iran opposition rejects partial recount

NEWS / A12
7 cops, 2 soldiers killed in Basilan by suspected rebs

Palace says GMA trips net billions of dollars

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHY COMPLAIN WHEN her foreign trips when her travel expenses generate a thousandfold return in investments?

In its fresh attempt to justify President Macs-

PALACE A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, June 29, 2009 ★ 10 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 201 P18 online: www.inquirer.net

Blast hits Ombudsman building; no one hurt

By Nancy Carvajal

A HOMEMADE DEVICE EXPLODES AT THE Office of the Ombudsman compound in Quezon City at 5 a.m. yesterday, causing minor damage but no injuries, police said.

"It was not meant to hurt, but only apparently to send a message," Supt. Francis Mateo Mabaong said.

BLAST B6

Fil-Am to sue torturers

Antifever drugs OK vs swine flu—DOH

By Norman Bordadora

LIKE MOST VIRAL ILLNESSES, an overwhelming number of influenza A(H1N1) cases will go away with time, and paracetamol and a good decongestant can manage the symptoms of the swine flu, according to a health official.

"The illness is self-limiting," Health Undersecretary Hilda Villaverde told the Inquirer on Friday night.

"If you have fever, you take paracetamol. If you have colds, you take a decongestant," he said.

Villaverde yesterday said that most swine flu cases were mild. "They will only need symptomatic and supportive treatment like paracetamol, bed rest and plenty of fluids, fruit juices," he said.

"Therefore, they can be managed on outpatient basis even by general practitioners," he added.

Villaverde's statements came in the wake of a Department of Health (DOH) memorandum that limited the government's distribution of anti-flu drugs Oseltamivir or Tamiflu to patients who are considered high-risk.

"Generally the cases in the Philippines and in other countries are mild," Villaverde said when asked why Oseltamivir would no longer be given to all confirmed swine flu cases except those with preexisting conditions.

ANTIVIRUS A6

Dirty polls in 2010 can spark revolt

By Amando Doronila

IT'S TOO SOON TO FORGET that tampering with election results can bring disastrous consequences to democratic regimes.

ANALYSIS

As the Commission on Elections (Comelec) comes under increasing public pressure to install a fraud-proof automated vote count system, warnings have intensified that a fraudulent election in May 2010 could spark a revolution.

The warnings are not without empirical basis. Fears have been raised over whether adequate safeguards have been made by Smartmatic-Total Information Management Corp., the Rotha-don-based consortium which won the tender to carry out the computerized polling for the first time on a nationwide scale since 1907.

The new system is claimed to report results within two days of the voting, instead of weeks.

DIRTY POLLS A15

NIGHTMARE REVISITED Between sobs, Melissa Roxas speaks for the first time about her abduction and torture in May while on an exposure program in the Philippines during a press conference at Koko Park United Methodist Church in Los Angeles.

Activist recounts ordeal in RP visit

By Alexis Papa

FOR FILIPINO-AMERICAN MELISSA ROXAS, IT was like going on a journey back to a "dark place" but one she had to make so that the world would know of the human rights abuses in the Philippines and that the "abductions and torture" would stop.

In an emotional press conference in Los Angeles, California, on Sunday morning (Manila time), Roxas burst into sobs as she publicly recounted how a group of men she said were military agents tortured her to the point she thought she would die.

The 31-year-old Roxas said that as a result of her ordeal—during which she said her tormentors tried to suffocate her by pulling plastic bags over her head—she had been having nightmares every day.

"Talking about this is like going back to that dark place. But knowing I spoke the truth about what happened to me keeps ... fear from drowning me. Instead, I get to keep that bit of light inside of me," Roxas said in the news conference shown simultaneously online.

She said she came out to tell her story because "I don't want what happened to me happen to anyone else ever again."

"I want the world to know what happened because the Philippine government and military should not get away with

FILIPINO A21

High fashion, arts merge in CCP show

By Thelma Sioson San Juan
Lifestyle Editor

'ALIW! WHAT FUN!

"The Ernerheads by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra! I really believe the Ernerheads should be National Artists," said a gleeful and amazed Ari Segovia.

The 24-year-old artist was in serious-chic suit, his first, bought only a week before to wear to this fashion show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) that would marry high fashion and the arts.

It was the young man's first fashion show. To him, the novel experience would be a meeting of fashion, the arts—and Pinoy pop icons.

Segovia was one of the more than 700 guests who trooped to the CCP on Tuesday to watch "Face Off," a fashion show featuring the collections of three contemporaries—Randy Ortiz, Rhett Eala and Rajo Laurel.

The designs were presented to live music by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), the first time in recent years for the orchestra to perform in a fashion show.

As soon as the PPO played the national anthem, the applause and ovation in the

HIGH FASHION A20

FACE OFF Creations (right and bottom photos) of fashion designers Randy Ortiz, Rhett Eala and Rajo Laurel are featured in the "Face Off" show.

Jackson's family seeks new autopsy

LOS ANGELES—THE FAMILY of Michael Jackson ordered a second autopsy of the tragic pop icon on Saturday to associates told of mounting anger over "unanswered questions" surrounding the superstar's death.

Jackson's family members were huddled at their compound in Los Angeles, where they have gathered since the most famous member of their clan died suddenly on Thursday at age 50 after suffering an apparent cardiac arrest.

The Los Angeles coroner's office on Friday said a preliminary autopsy on Jackson was inconclusive and a final cause of death would not be known until exhaustive toxicology tests were completed in "six to eight weeks."

Jackson's body was released to his family late Friday and kept at an undisclosed location before undergoing a second autopsy, officials and local media reports said.

Late Saturday the Los Ange-

JACKSON'S A21

Read-along relives young Rizal's love for reading

STORY IN ACTION Actor and TV host Cesar Montano reads a story to students of Nagpayong Elementary School in Pasig City.

By Kate Pedroza
Inquirer Research

BECOMING A JOSE RIZAL STARTS WITH love of reading.

Children learned this about the national hero and became acquainted with two of his famous works during a special lunch-time Read-Along session held on Saturday at the Ortigas Foundation Library in Pasig City.

Prominent readers were actor Cesar Montano and seasoned storytellers Dindi Justo of Adarna and Aklatrap president Rish Rodrigues.

Montano read "Si Pagong at si Matsing," Rizal's favorite tale told to him by his mother, Teodora Alonso, when he was a little boy. This time around, the story is retold by Dindi Gonzalez and published by Adarna House.

Justo read Adarna's "Dalawang Bayong ng Bigas" by Rene Villanueva, recounting the lives of Rizal and Andres Bonifacio.

Rodrigues capped the session with Rizal's "Sobi Ito Tangere," a lively retelling by Villanueva and published by Lampara Publishing House.

Montano, who played Jose Rizal in the 1998 movie of the same title, came to the session with his three daughters, 7-year-old Angelina Isabel, 4-year-old Angeline Bernardette and 3-year-old Angel Pamela Luisa.

"I read illustrated Bible stories to my kids," he said. "I read and act out the sto-

READ-ALONG A20

WEATHER FORECAST

SUNDAY: Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies and rain; thunderstorms and thundershowers. Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies and isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rain
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rain
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rain
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rain
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Cloudy with Rain

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We'll have transition president–Puno

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

THE MOVES TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION will gain momentum under the next administration with the country's next president expected to play a transition role.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno made the assertion in an interview with the Inquirer.

"What is clear right now is that after next year's elections, there will be strong pressure for Charter change (Cha-cha)," he said.

Puno is eyeing a view presidential race under the administration party next year.

He said that President Macapagal-Arroyo and former presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada had all been advocates for amending the Constitution and would likely step up their advocacies in the next administration.

"Where (2004 truck ban) Pili gave confidence that she should shift to a parliamentary system and it is part of their disappointment that this did not push through. Erap wants a presidential system but he also wants to have economic changes in the Constitution," said Puno, noting that Cha-cha was one of the President Arroyo's campaign issues in 2004.

The President gave her tacit approval to push the approval of House Resolution 1109 during the first Lakas-Kampi-CMD meeting with the aim of prompting the Supreme Court to decide whether a constituent assembly for Cha-cha could be formed with Congress voting jointly or separately. The House claimed that it could hold a Con-ass independently of the Senate but the upper chamber countered that it should have a say in the process.

Everybody wants Cha-cha

"Everybody wants Cha-cha but not right away and if that is what will happen, then it means after the next elections there may be a change in government, there will be a transition, there will be an escape valve where the same people will be considering with their functions different from what they were elected for," said Puno.

Puno, however, would not speculate on how turncoats of the President's run for a congressional seat in her hometown in Pampanga would tie in with the Cha-cha push in the next administration.

"In my view, there is no point in her running. I did not see that coming, she never mentioned it in any of our meetings. It's a little odd, but who knows? Stranger things have happened in politics," he said.

But stalwart lawmakers are urging the President to be accommodative in her political plans in 2010.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said that instead of committing a Con-ass during the State of the Nation Address on July 27, "the President must make categorical answers to all the questions pertaining to her stay in power that would lay to rest all speculations."

"She owes it to the people to be upfront," said Ocampo.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the President must also declare in unequivocal terms that Cha-cha would not be pursued before 2010 and that she would not run for a congressional seat. "This will allow the other aspirants to move and prepare for a regime change in 2010," said Casiño.

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Oil firms slash fuel prices

CHEVRON PHILIPPINES HAS CUT THE prices of its E10 and gasoline products by P1.20 a liter, of diesel by 50 centavos a liter, and of kerosene by 75 centavos a liter.

Independent oil players Seaoil Philippines and Unioil Petroleum Phils. Inc. slashed prices of gasoline by P1.35 a liter, of diesel by 0.5 a liter, and of kerosene by 75 centavos a liter effective 12:01 a.m. today.

Another independent player, Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, led the rollback on Saturday, as it cut prices of gasoline and diesel by P1.25 and P1 a liter, respectively.

Phoenix explained that the rollback was "due to the downward trend in international oil prices and local market competition."

As of press time, the other two big oil companies had yet to announce price adjustments. This would be the first time in six weeks that oil companies cut the prices of their petroleum products.

Compared to the previous week's level, crude oil fell lower in the June 21-25 period, as an Energy Information Administration (EIA) report showed large increases in gasoline and diesel inventories.

Adding support to bearish factors are the strengthening US dollar and falling crude demand in the United States and Japan, two of the world's largest oil consumers," the report said. Amy R. Remo

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Let Comelec do its job, says Palace

By Christine F. Reyes

MALACAÑANG SEEKS: Today there is support for the Commission on Elections (Comelec) amid concerns that the agency might not be able to pull off the first-ever automated national and local elections in the country.

"They know what they're doing," said Ardiente Golez, deputy presidential spokesperson.

"We are commending the Comelec for doing everything to implement this program," added Presidential Security Group Fernando.

Fernando said the Palace was particularly pleased that the Comelec had announced that it was "preparing for the worst" with regard to next year's May elections.

"That is the best approach," he said. "While we hope for the best, we also prepare for the worst."

The Comelec has been under fire from lawmakers for alleged oversights when it granted the P7.2-billion poll automation contract to the Smartmatic-TIM Corporation (Smartmatic-TIM) recently.

Some of them questioned the true identity of the company, noting that it was based in Barbados, and it still had an office in the Philippines.

Golez earlier noted in view the company's decision to tap the "Tin Ho" homegrown firm of the Ayala group to provide the hubs for the automation project. The Ayala family is said to be closer to the Ferdinands.

Golez said critics should allow the Comelec to do its job.

"Let's not get ahead of the Commission officials," he said in a Filipino. "They would be pursuing their mandate if they didn't know what they are doing."

Ramos' concerns

Meanwhile, former President Fidel Ramos has asked the Comelec to assure the people that poll automation could be done, given the "continuing concerns that the electorate" body consider unprepared to computerize the automation of the elections and question the ability of the winning bidder for the poll automation project to carry it out up to the most remote precinct in the country."

The Comelec is set to sign with Smartmatic-TIM on Wednesday after it called a news conference to announce that the signing was to be held on Tuesday.

According to lawyer Bar Harbo, Ramos' chief of staff, the matter's concern was contained in a letter to Comelec Chair Jose Melo. Some of the issues Ramos raised were:

• Is the Comelec prepared with contingency measures in the event of a technical failure or the breakdown of the counting machines? What are these contingency measures?

• What provision does Comelec have to show that votes have been properly tabulated on how to vote using the machines available but lost? What is the level of accuracy or degree of confidence?

• What plans does the Comelec have to address a likely scenario of voters flocking to polling stations on Election Day possibly causing long queues of voters waiting their turn to feed their ballots into the counting machines?

PATS Christine O. Avendaño

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It'll be a laborer vs Iggy in Negros

By Jovanie Aning

IT'S BIGHTIVE "BAHID VERSUS GLORIGOD" in the second congressional district of Negros, pitting JUBILO Rufino Gochuico, IV's going to be "climate versus heavenlies (in Ilonggo translation)."

The Bacolod City-based Partido ng Manggagawa Negros announced yesterday that it would field its own candidate to run against President Mangagad-Arroyo brother-in-law, BDE district Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo Jr. for the 2010 elections.

"Negros island politics in 2010 should be the working class putting itself against the traditional politicians who are big capitalist landowners themselves," PM Negros chair Teofilo Aguinaldo Jr. said in a statement to the business.

Aguinaldo said PM was inspired "to launch their race to another plateau raised by another Ateneo" following the election of University of the Philippines professor and business columnist Randy David to challenge the President if he decides to run for Congress in Pampanga when her term expires in 2010.

Bid Negros, Aguinaldo said, would field a third candidate for the fifth district if Iggy Arroyo will run for reelection unchallenged.

"Politics in Negros has been a politics of land monopoly and monopoly of political power by the big capitalist landowners for almost a century," he said.

The family of Iggy Arroyo has large landholdings—mostly sugar plantations—in the island, parts of which Pima workers have been trying to take over via the government's agrarian reform program.

The fifth district covers Himamaylan City and the towns of Binalbagan, Ilog, Isabela, La Carlota and Moises Padilla.

Aguinaldo said there must be a radical change in politics for workers and the poor to end the cycle of poverty and gain political freedom in the region.

"This may be a long, long way off but changes must be initiated nonetheless, and participating in an electoral struggle is an arena of battle for the working class," he said.

Aguinaldo is the union president of a jeepney plantation in the town of Murcia in the northeastern part of the province.

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Pinay 'mule' carried drugs all the way to Peru

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By Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT should crack down on local and foreign drug syndicates before more Filipino women are enticed to work as "drug mules," a migrant workers advocacy group said yesterday.

The Blas F. Ople Policy Center expressed the concern amid reports of a Nigerian drug syndicate that victimized two Filipino women in and halfway around the world to deliver drugs.

"The scattered production and distribution of drugs within our borders have made it easier for international drug syndicates to tap Filipinas to smuggle drugs overseas," the center's president, Susan Ople, said in a statement.

The statement was issued in reaction to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's 2009 World Drug Report, which showed the Philippines as fifth in the world in methamphetamine seizures from 1998 to 2007.

Ople, a former labor undersecretary, noted that there were more than 800 drug cases involving Filipinos in different parts of the world, with 210 cases in China.

She said the Nigerian drug ring lured two maltreated Filipinas to different parts of the world with promises of employment as nurses at large.

"From Bangkok, the woman went to Brazil then was told to go to Peru. Her eventual stay was terminated every step of the way by the syndicate, in Peru, she ran out of money and was told to wait by her recruiter. It turned out that the syndicate had a problem with its contact in Peru so the deal carried over," Ople said.

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero has urged the government to crack down on drug syndicates in the country, including "foreign recruiters" who feed the large-scale manufacture of illegal drugs such as methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu. With Cynthia D. Rebuya

Somali pirates free 3 Pinoys

MOGADISHU—SOMALI pirates have released a Belgian dredging ship, the Pompei, and its crew which included three Filipinos over custody after their capture, the Belgian prime minister said Sunday.

"The government was informed of the release of the Pompei and its crew," Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy said in a statement. It did not say whether ransom had been paid.

"The news also informed that the crew is in good health."

The Pompei and its crew which included a Dutch captain, two Belgians, three Filipinos and four Croatians were seized April 18 some 350 kilometers north of the Seychelles as they were sailing to South Africa.

Pirate sources had said five days ago they were on the verge of releasing in after ransom of $2.8 million was agreed upon.

Despite international navy patrols, piracy has exploded in the Gulf of Aden and around Somalia's 3,060-km coastline. AFP, AP and Reuters

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Homemade bomb found on bus in North Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—POLICE AND MILITARY authorities have foiled another attempt by suspected Moro rebels to set off an improvised explosive device (IED) inside a bus in North Cotabato.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said the IED was found at past noon on Saturday inside the luggage compartment of Rural Transit bus while on a stopover in Kabacan town.

The IED was fashioned from a 60-mm mortar with mobile phone as a trigger, said Chief Insp. Franklin Sario, Kabacan police chief.

Sario said the bus first had been receiving extortion demands from the al-Khobar group, which is operating in North Cotabato.

The bus was on its way to Bukidnon from Tacurong City when the conductor noticed a suspicious bag at the luggage compartment. He quickly alerted the driver and told the passengers to vacate the bus.

Two hours earlier, an IED went off at the Tacurong terminal, leaving nine people wounded. Police said the responsible Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was behind the attack.

Kasibu Sahadaya, a powerful device went off on a roadside in Buntogan Mitungo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao, in what the Army believed was detailed for military convoys. No one was hurt.

Ponce said another IED was found at a roadside some 50 meters away from Buntogan Mitungo.

The MILF has repeatedly denied involvement in bombings in Maguindanao targeting civilians.

"Some convoys target the people whose houses sights are are fighting for Bonifer, most of them are relatives [CMILF] rights to either by officials or by blood," said Eid Kabalu, MILF civil military vice chair. Alberto Pernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

THE FACADE of the Office of the Ombudsman in Quezon City—the improvised explosive device was thrown at the compound and damaged a water tank and a guard's cubicle at the Agham Road exit gate. NOY LORENZO

Blast hits Ombudsman building; no one hurt

From page A1

Except for security guards on other people were in the compound at the time, Malaya said.

The blast damaged a water tank and shattered the glass window of the guard's cubicle at the Agham Road exit gate.

Investigators showed that the bomber threw the device from outside the compound.

"We found a steel matchstick just outside the exit gate which we believe was used to light the explosive before it was hurled into the compound," PNP Senior Tigno said.

Militants said two men boarded a car parked not far from the gate and immediately left after the blast.

Images in the compound's closed circuit television video recording was on point to identify the men, police said.

"If the intention of those responsible for the explosion as well as those sending death threats to our investigators is for us to slow down in our investigation, they are mistaken," assistant Ombudsman Mark E. Jelandoni said in a statement.

Jelandoni said he was still verifying if there was any specific death threat.

"We have investigators and lawyers who have received specific threats. Some of them were even being followed. We are not saying we know this. All it had anything to do with our pending case," Jelandoni said.

He said concerned employees had called, but that it would be business as usual today.

With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

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Palace says GMA trips net billions of dollars

By Inquirer A1

papil-siaw-on's frequent travels abroad, Malacañang yesterday insisted that the country was raising "billions of dollars" in investments commitments while the amounts it was spending on her trips.

"The trips of our President are a big help to our country," said Anthony Golez, deputy presidential spokesperson. "A one-piso investment of our country becomes P1,000 in value."

And with the amount of investment commitments and assistance such trips were supposedly generating in the midst of a global financial crisis, Mr. Golez was no longer giving specifics, he said.

"The President is the No. 1 salesman of our country," Golez added.

Press Secretary Gregg Bernardo said Malacañang was prepared to reveal Mr. Arroyo's expenses for her foreign trips.

Sec. Peace Executive's has claimed that the Palace might have spent more than P1 billion on at least 50 foreign travels Mr. Arroyo had made since she assumed office in 2001.

Bayanihan said the travel budget earmarked for Malacañang last year was P400.8 million, while another P406 million was allocated this year.

Golez said Ms. Arroyo, who has less than a year left in her term, was not bothered by the criticisms. "She knows that what she's doing is a big help to our country," he said.

Bernardo added: "A good leader has to pay a price for it because good leadership is not about being popular, but about being right."

Ms. Arroyo and her delegation are to arrive in Manila between 9:30 and 10 tonight, according to Bernardo.

In the past two weeks, she had been on sending visits to Japan and Brazil, which included an unannounced stopover in Colombia.

The President was to return over the weekend, but went on an unscheduled side trip to Hong Kong. There, she was to meet this afternoon with outgoing consultant Tony Kwok "to review our campaign program with the end view of renewing our campaign against graft and corruption," Bernardo said.

Some 500 Filipinos picketed Island Shangri-La Hotel, where Ms. Arroyo and her entourage were billeted.

The protesters, led by the United Filipinos (UnaFil) in Hong Kong, denounced "Luyan! Gimme!"

They unfurled placards and shouted slogans denouncing the President for supporting Charter change and spending taxpayers' money in her foreign trips.

Other protesters came from the Hong Kong chapters of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Bayan Pilipinas Movement, Anak ki Lod, Gabriela, Citizens' Media Against Crime, Migrante Migrant Workers Union, United Pangasinan in Hong Kong, GenBlues Alliance and the Abra Tinguian Bonnet Society.

UnaFil chair Dolores Balladares slammed a Palace statement saying that Ms. Arroyo's Hong Kong visit was requested by Filipinos seeking a dialogue.

"If there were indeed a clamors, why was her trip to Hong Kong kept a secret up to the last minute?" Balladares said in a statement.

"It is so obvious that this trip is just one of her numerous junkets trips that serve no other interest but her alone," she added.

Nestoras Uy Garsuy of Bayan Muna Ms. Arroyo's repeated jokes to stand with a Filipina domestic, Mildred Baray, who gained recognition when she recently refused a bag with P820,000,000 she had found in a trash bin, to its owner.

"The Philippines's queen of lies, fraud and deceitful schemes has no hesitation confusing lessons to honest, toiling OFWs," Garsuy said. With a report from Jeremy Jimeng

Antifever drugs OK vs swine flu, says DOH

By Inquirer A1

High-risk cases are those who are likely to develop health complications upon contracting the swine flu virus. They are those with preexisting conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and viral HIV.

The elderly, infants and those who are pregnant are also at an increased risk if they contract the virus.

People who have close contact with A/H1N1-positive patients will also no longer be given Oseltamivir, according to the DOH guidelines.

Excerpt

Excerpt from this rule are health workers who come in contact with the patients without the necessary protective gear such as face masks.

Oliveride said limiting government's distribution of Oseltamivir to avoid a shortage in the near future was not due to the surge in confirmed cases in the country—461 as of Friday.

Oliveride added that such was already the case in the United States—that health officials said had restored the antiinfluenza pharmaceuticals to the limited spread of the virus there.

At the start of the swine flu crisis, the DOH said that the government had set aside a supply of 1.5 million doses of Oseltamivir.

Oseltamivir is now reportedly going for P350 a dose.

The DOH mitigation response at the beginning of a community outbreak gives particular attention to the vulnerable group of people who are likely to develop complications.

It encouraged early consultations to prevent complications and severe outcome.

The country's first swine flu-related fatality was due to congestive heart failure aggravated by pneumonia. The fatality, a Manila Paper contractor's employee, was also found to show an enlarged kidney spleen and kidney, a source in the union said told police.

Hold drills

Even if the DOH has enhanced its rules in dealing with the swine flu virus, now is the best time to come up with a plan and to hold drills in preparation for its more virulent form, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.

Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, said the government should come up with a plan to deal with viruses more virulent than swine flu.

He said schools, communities and companies should have their respective plans and conduct drills.

"Now is the good time to practice," Gordon told ABS-CBN radio. "If we don't practice, we will end up unprepared for the real thing."

The senator said that if the government was holding drills for earthquakes, it should also hold drills for virulent viruses.

Before the DOH announcement the effective day of its more relaxed prevention measures, Dominguez said the different action taken by the DOH, the House (which shut down offices last week) and even Malacañang in dealing with the virus showed that there was no coordination.

Over 5,000 employees of the House will return to work today, with Speaker Prospero Nograles giving his assurance that the Batasang Pambansa complex had been thoroughly cleaned.

Nograles ordered more stringent measures aimed at preventing the spread of the swine flu virus had been put in place. The House technically decided to put up thermal scanners on all of the complex's entry points.

The House leadership will hold an emergency committee meeting tomorrow to assess the health security situation in the Batasan, specifically its impact on preparations for the State of the Nation address (Sona) on July 27.

Nograles reported that all areas in the complex, particularly the third floor of the Ramon Aldaza Building where the country's first swine flu-related fatality was based, had been sanitized and that almost all employees had been given influenza vaccine.

Uninterrupted service

Those other employees have been diagnosed as having the swine flu but have all recovered. None of their immediate family members were infected.

"With four A(H1N1) cases, the House should operate with the least number of personnel that will not unduly curtail opportunities and service," Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Biazon said.

In Northern Mindanao, the health department announced on Saturday that the region had 10 confirmed cases of the virus but said all of the patients had fully recovered.

Jun Galicia, DOH regional epidemiologist, said two of the patients are from Cagayan de Oro City, six from Bukidnon and two, who were quarantined in Cotabato City, are from Oriental City.

In Iloilo City, the Department of Tourism (DOT) on Sunday urged travel operators and tourism industry players to focus on boosting domestic tourism to offset the impact of the decline in inbound data to the Philippines.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Ed Cabuenagan Jr. in Manila, Ma. Cecilia L. Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao and Amiel P. Bargo Jr., Inquirer Visayas

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Gay group trying harder to make it to Congress

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE GROUP ANG Ladlad said yesterday it was working to remove the obstacles in its party-list accreditation so that Filipino gays and lesbians could win representation in Congress in next year's polls.

Lawyer Germaine Lorenzo, Ang Ladlad treasurer, said the Commission on Elections disqualified the group in 2007 on the grounds that it failed to show that it had a nationwide membership.

"This year, we are doing the groundwork to satisfy the 2 regional representation requirements. So we have been going [around] the provinces to enlist support from gay and lesbian groups," said Lorenzo, who attended the Gay Pride march here on Sunday.

She said Ang Ladlad members visited Cebu City, Cagayan de Oro City, General Santos City, Davao and Zamboanga recently to organize chapters and strengthen their campaign for party-list accreditation.

She said the group would submit to the Comelec documents and other materials to prove they have members in provinces all over the country.

"[The Comelec] could see we are not representing a marginalized sector. But we are representing 10 percent of the population," Lorenzo said.

The Comelec had rejected the group's application for accreditation, saying that "reports from our field offices reveal that it doesn't exist in most regions of the country."

Lorenzo said Ang Ladlad will push the Anti-Discrimination Bill that gives lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT) equal rights and opportunities to employment as well as in schools, restaurants, hotels, entertainment centers and government offices.

On Sunday, about 100 gays and lesbians marched down Session Road in this mountain city wearing costumes and carrying placards denouncing discrimination and homophobia.

The march was re-enacted by the Baguio Pride Network as part of international gay pride celebrations that commemorated the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City. The riots were triggered by a police raid on a New York bar frequented by gays and lesbians.

Pa of PDI cartoonist Abrera dies

JESUS "TITET" S. ABRERA SR. of Cavite, Bulacan, died yesterday morning in Malasag, Mandaluyong City. He was 69. He had worked at San Miguel Corp. and at the Philippines Herald.

He is survived by his wife Soledad P. Abrera, children Mike, Jess Romeo cartoonist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer), Joy, Jet and Sally, and grandchildren.

His remains were removed last night. A wake will be held at Iglesia ni Cristo Pan. de Manila Memorial Park on Santa, Marikina City, from June 30 to July 2.

Former wire reporter was 49

CLARO CORTEZ III, A FORMER reporter of United Press International and The Associated Press in Manila, died Tuesday after a lingering illness. He was 49.

Claro began his journalism career in 1982. He covered the coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino and the 1995 reopening of Mt. Pinatubo. He was photographed pulling a barmer to safety during the siege of Mendiola in 1987.

Despite falling into bad health, he continue his secretariat of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines for three years.

He is survived by his wife Agnes and children Ivan and Iebo.

His remains lie at Funeraria Paz at Manila Memorial Park on Quezon in Parañaque City. Cremation is set for June 30.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 29, 2009
Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, apostles

1st Reading: Acts 12:1-11
2nd Reading: 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18
Gospel: Mt 16:13-19

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "What do people say of the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?" They said, "Some say you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church, and money will the powers of death overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Commentary:

Some time and had and played a unique part in setting the foundations of the Church as we know it today. The all-to-human flaw caused Christianity's most were anchored firmly in Jewish Old Testament traditions. Here as leader of the apostles, was Peter, a Jew, and a devout practicing Jew at that. So, one can see with John on prayers for the last Passover before Jesus' death. Quite rightly, the names of Peter as entry for all apostles. His fame as the rock upon which Christ would build the Church, established a fact tradition that has extended down through history to the present Pope.

Much experience of the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus ensured that the Church would be extended to the gentile worldwide as Christ had commanded. Paul's central conviction was simple and absolute: only Christ can save humans. As humans glory we owe the most scrupulous observance of law, we create a state of human goodness, which we can bring to unity to reparation for sin and atonement for guilt. It is nonetheless hard to be saved from sin. From the dread from death. Somewhat must open itself completely to the saving power of Christ.

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Explain foreign trips, JPE tells Sabio

SENATE PRESIDENT Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday denounced as "unwarranted" the Commission on Good Government (PCGG) Chair Camilo Sabio investigation by the Senate blue ribbon committee if the latter fails to adequately explain his numerous trips abroad since 2008.

There included a recent European trip that Sabio took with his family and friends that was reportedly paid for by one of the sequestered mills sequestered by the PCGG.

Enrile tasks Sabio explanation for the latter's foreign trips

Answering the Senate president said he would give Sabio a chance to reply until the opening of Congress on July 27.

"If (otherwise) I will file a resolution to investigate him and [Deputy Commissioner,]" Enrile said in an interview over dzBB radio.

Concerning a chief executive official and president of the CIIF Milling Group, which owns five sequestered oil mills under PCGG sequestration.

Quoting reports he received, Enrile said Sabio had traveled abroad almost every month and that was why he wanted to know if those trips were official or private.

The Senator tried to reach Sabio for his side but his phone just kept on ringing and he did not answer the calls. Christine O. Avendaño and Philip Tubeo

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MERALCO

DOORSTEPPED A member of the police Special Action Force keeps a weary eye his uniform during sundown checkpoint at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. The elite officers of received routine print to their deployment to Basilan where they will hunt the Abu Sayyaf/Jemaah group.

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9 cops, soldiers slain in South

ISINSINABAL CITY —Suspected Moro rebels killed seven policemen and two soldiers in separate ambushes over the weekend in Maguindanao, security officials reported.

Supt. Estelito Bacoy, police spokesperson in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, said the policemen were ambushed in Sumalipa, Ranlim.

He identified the fatalities only by their last names. Chief Inspector Jamsid, Police Officers 1 Saidh, Hajel, Salim, Pulmag, Adzhel and Kimlon. The injured were identified as SPO1 Timbocos and PO2 Patoh.

The policemen were returning to camp in nearby Mindanao after escorting Imamah Hayon Habel Kural.

In Tipo-tipo, Basilan, meanwhile, two soldiers of the 104th Engineering Battalion were shot dead by unidentified men while buying cigarettes at a store on Saturday night.

A spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command identified the fatalities as Tsgt. Luisito Alcede and PFC Benny Sullen.

Reinforcements

The Philippine National Police yesterday dispatched a 126-member PNP Special Action Force (SAF) to Basilan to augment security forces pursuing the seventeenist rebels who continue to hold three school teachers hostage.

Last month, 137 policemen were sent to Sulu to reinforce operations to rescue Italian Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni, who was abducted by the extremist group Abu Sayyaf group five months ago.

PNP Director General Jesse Verzosa said he was optimistic Vagni and the three teachers would be released. Andrew Marlowe and Jude Akiatela, Inquirer Mindanao; Steve Quinsaat; and AP

Dirty polls in 2010

Homepage A1

In the 2004 presidential election, the final official tally was proclaimed 11 days after the polls amid charges of vote-rigging.

Historically, losing parties and candidates have blamed the long delay in declaring official results for giving opportunities to allow results, resulting in undermining public confidence in elections as a mechanism for leadership change.

Skeptical quarters claim that an automated system can facilitate cheating and rigging the count, posing the dilemma that whatever the system, Filipinos are not ultimately supposed to allow an electoral system to work.

He face a fresh reminder to the turmoil in Iran over the disputed results of its June 12 elections.

The main reformist opposition candidate, former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, has called for annulment of the results after Iran's electoral commission, the Guardian Council, declared President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, reelected with 63 percent of the vote.

Claiming election fraud, the opposition pointed out that the commission declared a lopsided victory for Ahmadinejad into day after it announced that the number of votes recorded in 50 cities exceeded the number of voters there by three million.

The results sparked protests in Tehran constituting the most sustained challenge to Iran's leadership since the 1979 Islamic Revolution deposed the shah of Iran.

RP's coup election

The familiar government-to-line crushed down on the protesters, displaying the feared Revolutionary Guards and Basij militia to break the protests. Security forces fired water cannons, shot tear gas and used clubs to disperse crowds. At least 20 people have been killed and 457 arrested during two weeks of clashes in Tehran.

The authorities prompted UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to denounce the violence, particularly the "use of force against civilians." He called for an "immediate stop to the arrests, threats and use of force." The state-dominated Guardian Council ruled out a new election.

The Iranian protests recall that the outcry of the 1986 People Power Revolution in the Philippines was the rejection of the snap presidential election by the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

The rubber-stamp Cansino declared Marcos reelected when unofficial quick counts showed that opposition leader Corazon Aquino was leading overwhelmingly.

The proclamation of Marcos was the subject by the puppet Batasan Pambansa, based on the rigged Cansino tally, sparked a massive civil disobedience movement leading to a military mutiny in February 1986 that eventually toppled the 14-year dictatorship.

The Arroyo experience

Eighteen years later, the constitutionally installed administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who succeeded President Joseph Estrada after people power toppled him in 2001, forgot the lesson of the ballot rigging by Marcos in 1986.

Mrs Arroyo intervened in the count of the 2004 elections, in order to ensure her victory by a second vote, which she called a Gonzalez commissioner by phone to tamper with the Comelec tally.

The interference triggered a mass defection of 10 Cabinet members in July 2005, leading to demands for Mrs Arroyo's resignation. That interference plagued the Arroyo administration ever with a legitimacy issue during the past five years.

The message is clear. Tampering of the vote ignites popular unrest or revolution.

Regimes rigging elections cannot depend on repression and state security forces for survival against public outrage. They are not safe.

Neither in authoritarian societies are us less ruthless in their protests over election cheating than societies with long experience in democracy, such as the Philippines.

Danger signals

The Iranian unrest flashes danger signals to the Philippines as the latest struggles conducive free and honest elections in 2010.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, head of the Iranian cleric elite, has firmly backed Ahmadinejad. He warned that "the subversive must stop their actions" or face "Guidelines Revolutionary Guards."

According to The Associated Press, Khamenei may be a casualty on the protests. It reports that acts of defiance of the supreme leader had been unthinkable until recently.

The opposition protest have thrust Iran into its most civil unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and have broken the taboo against direct criticism of Khamenei. Something in Bloomberg, some are now talking of Khamenei as a casualty of the crisis.

Today, Khamenei is reviled, was reviled by thousands of supporters of opposition leader Mousavi. Thousands are chanting "Death to Khamenei," underscoring a blow to his authority. They have ignored his warnings to stay off the streets.

Khamenei's position, handling of the crisis and his support for the hardline Ahmadinejad have prompted two former presidents—so-called reformists Mohammad Khatami and Hassan Rafsanjani—to come out in sympathy with protesters, unusually rupturing in the power structure.

Weighing options

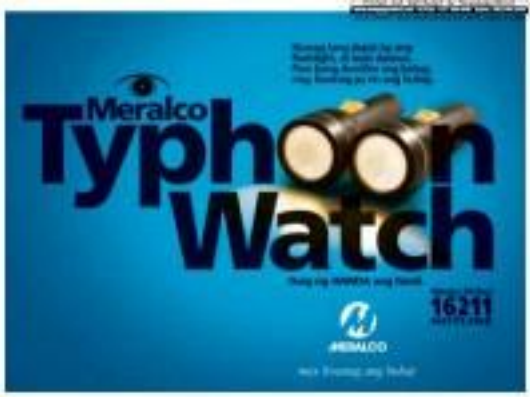
Ending the election campaign, Mr. moderated accused Rafsanjani of rallying support within the religious establishment for Mousavi.

Questions have been raised on what's next for Iran.

One expert, Sam Saji, special correspondent of British Broadcasting Corp., said, "What will happen next is anyone's guess. The fact is that both sides are weighing their options. On the government's side, there are signs that hardliners leaders are divided as to how to proceed and how to crush this movement.

"My guess is that sporadic street violence will continue in big cities and in universities and people will continue to shout, Allahu Akbhar' (God is Great), from the rooftops."

There almost will have resonance among Filipinos facing their next election.



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OPINION

Bite the bullet

CONTINUING CRITICISM AGAINST THE COMELEC for its decision to award the automation contract to Smartmatic-TIM—a contract which will finally be signed tomorrow—gives us pause. But despite some misgivings, we join the many who want full automation to take place in May 2010, and who think that the Comelec's choice represents a reasonable risk worth taking. At the same time, we urge the Comelec to prepare for the worst with a viable Plan B.

EDITORIAL

Most voters weary of election fraud are aware that no "foolproof" system exists; if they have given the matter any thought, they would in all likelihood accept that the Comelec's PCOS or precinct count optical scan configuration and Smartmatic's OMR or optical mark reader machines are not perfect. But they would also think that both have passed the poll automation standards set by both Congress and the Comelec under Chairman Jose Melo.

The unprecedented openness of the Comelec's bidding process—again, by most ideal, but a true milestone in election reform—helps soothe any public anxiety about automation. We note, for instance, the participation of the Comelec Advisory Council, and find it difficult to believe that information technology experts like Ray Roman-Cruz and veteran election watchdogs like Tita de Villa were lulled or tricked or forced into endorsing the choice of Smartmatic.

We recognize that, within the IT industry, concerns about just how transparent the bidding process was persist. While some of the nuances of discussions are politicized (they were losing bidders, or know people behind losing bids), the concerns cannot be sweepingly dismissed as mere sour grapes or as a vast conspiracy of election dreams worried about their future.

At the same time, the nation cannot afford any further delay in the automation process; as it is, the Comelec is already about a month late, and the crucial elections are now only 10 and a half months away.

Much of the resistance against automation in general, or Smartmatic's winning bid in particular, may perhaps be remembered as fear of the new. What happens if there is a power outage on election day? Will there be enough time for all the voters in a precinct to fill their ballots? What is a voter's remedy if the machine refuses to accept her ballot? How will remote areas transmit their results? These and similar questions are decidedly new-trivial, and require from the Comelec and Smartmatic a new-clients of answers or a List of Frequently Asked Questions, for instructive circulation.

But, on the other hand, we know the vulnerabilities of the old system all too well. The Comelec-Smartmatic contract offers us the chance to leave most of that behind, primarily because most election glitches happen during the interminable wait for results. The new system promises results in two days; it will be difficult for election fixers and their political patrons to manipulate the system in those two days, at least in this first instance.

Difficult, but not impossible. That is why this current phase of election reform must be secured through a prepared Comelec and a vigilant citizenry. The election agency must be ready—as its spokesman said the other day—for the worst, such as power outages or terrorist attacks (and, if we may add, the prospect of election opponents using pre-shaded ballots to steal the vote). Citizens must be ready to monitor the election process, not only on election day through that is crucial, but also in the run-up to the vote: when the machines arrive in a given place, when the ballots are printed and so on.

Perhaps the country's TV networks can also help ease the transition from manual to automated vote by repeatedly airing a 30-second video showing viewers how to fill the ballot and use the machine; by doing so, the networks (which, put together, reach practically everyone in the country) can help give the new technology a familiar face.

Yes, risks remain. But ranged against the large scale risks we have suffered from in the past and are certain to face again, if we remain stuck in the manual route, the advantages are clear. Time to bite the automation bullet.

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A farewell to a journalist and patriot

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

JOURNALIST AND ACTIVIST JULIUS FORTUNA will be buried this Thursday in his hometown of Odiongan, Romblon. Julius died of a heart attack a week ago at the age of 61. He loved literature and literature of his. About every other week, he texted me to go home to Odiongan, which is where he was born, to attend the funeral of Romblon, home province of National Artist NVM Gonzalez, famous for his Mindoro stories.

Julius' parents seem to have been saying him to me for years, or even generous of this province long cheered for good leaders. But his remarkable colleagues said how "it is a loss. Once we get in, you cannot get out even if you want to."

"Besides," Julius agreed. "I have no money. What will I use for the campaign?" The political leaders are going like to run had no money either. They were good leaders who did not waste spending money from Julius' People Even the governors usually have the smallest notice that people loves Manila have gold mines hidden somewhere.

But Julius is the greater grass boy for the poor province trying he had in the city and nothing ways to improve the lives of poor families. That is why, early in life, as a student, he became an activist and was among the organizers and leaders of the First Quarter Storm against the Marcos martial law. He fellow activists in members that as a time but with never organized.

But which reason he was arrested and detained by the Marcos administration, implicated in the smuggling of arms aboard the MV Karagatan off Subic. He was detained for almost eight years—the longest martial law prisoner for nine years—while the military tried to make him admit participation in the Karagatan fiasco and even to an his fellow communists. But have could Julius admit participation in a crime that took place off the coast of Subic when he was in detention in Camp Crame?

During those eight years, he was tortured repeatedly by the military but Julius glorified his faith and from the pain patiently and silently without calling on his colleagues.

Years later, after he was released, he took up politics as well, no hatred, no anger and no desire for revenge against his torturers. On the contrary, when he became a governor, he helped many military officers, colonels and generals, who could lose from serving his prison and hardness. Often, Julius would arrange interviews for journalists over lunch or dinner with these officers while they were still officers. Such was the forgiving nature of Julius.

I have been a close friend and colleague of Julius for perhaps the longest time. I last worked with him when I became executive editor of The Manila Chronicle. I took Julius with me and as many of the Globe staff as I could. I made Julius and Noel Cabrera my deputy editors. But while Noel liked the job and the title, Julius said he would be happy with being a columnist.

Four years ago, I was fortunate to be invited to help set up the Day. Julius had a chance that commanded the loyalty of younger journalists. Until today many years after the Globe and the Chronicle were closed due to labor troubles, we stayed close to our former colleagues from both publications and other newspapers we worked with. We held frequent reunions and parties in each other's homes.

After the astounding success of the Kapihan sa Manila which I helped organize and which I still host today (the first such breakfast forum in the country that sparked many similar), Julius asked me to help organize Kapihan in Subi at the Subi Hotel in Quezon City. Noel Cabrera asked me to help him organize a similar weekly breakfast forum in Greenhills. Both forums are also still now. Kapihan at Subi will resume this Saturday after it was suspended for one week because of the death of Julius. Only several months ago, Julius delivered a eulogy during the funeral services for Noel Cabrera. Last year also, friends, colleagues and executives listened to eulogies for Julius.

Every Saturday, Julius and I saw each other during the Subi forum, after which we had lunch together with close friends. Every Monday, we saw each other at the Kapihan in Manila after which we had lunch with friends at a Chinese restaurant. In between, we usually had dinner or lunch that Julius arranged with close sources, usually at a restaurant or hotel on Mondays, QC, at other times, we had meetings of the Association of Philippine Journalists (API) in a restaurant in Greenhills of which Julius was a board member and I was chairman. We often called or texted each other by cell phone. So Julius and I had almost daily contact.

Last Saturday, June 20, Julius and I were together at the Subi forum, then had lunch with friends. The following Monday, he did not show up at the Kapihan in Manila and at the API lunch. Early the next morning, I was awakened by a call from my driver.

Julius was dead, he said reasonably.

Where did we locate that? I asked.

From the driver of Dr. Julius, he answered.

I verified from the family. It was true. Our dear Julius was dead. By midmorning, the news was all over town.

One thing I can say about Julius: He died in a good week. How he would be remembering in the week Benigno Aquino III and Michael Jackson.

By these they would be sure by Noel Cabrera, Joe Capadocia, Nelly Escalayen, fellow detainees Nicky Lopino, and Elvin Presley and John Lennon. There would be a happy reunion. Perhaps they would organize a concert and set up a booth for Julius at the gate.

Then they would look down, believe at their former jailer—Hil.

Purgatory

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiroz

anything about the Philippines, his parents thought it best that he forget the land of their birth and married Irish with none of the baggage of the past. It philosophy most Filipino immigrants to the United States held. They didn't go through hoops, looking everything they owned and endlessly the cold weather and town couldn't understand from their new society, just so their kids would have no other than their own.

In fact, he said, the only time he really learned a good deal about the Philippines was when his brother gave them an assignment to trace their roots. This was in the '80s, when they weren't "born" back America to live, when the ATM arrays that broke records and when they badgered his parents to tell him all they knew about the Philippines and did research on it at libraries. The result was that he became a big fan of the country going to the Philippines to retire in his mind, time and money permitting.

That's not the case with most other children of Filipino immigrants in the United States, and the results are apparent in the recent Asiaph indicated. The second or third generations have become "Americanized," a concept that is not welcome by many of the professionals. Many of the kids of Filipino parents in America have lost their Filipino roots, but they have not merely gained an American one either. Certainly the loss of ethnic identity has not put ourselves or third generation Filipinos in positions of influence or strength in their countries of birth. Even Indians, who came to America, to China, and even across countries from Vietnam.

In fact the loss of ethnic identity has not made Filipinos more American, it has simply made them more nondescript. A friend of mine told me about an experience in her many years ago. He owned an advertising firm in the United States and attended an advertising convention. He was astonished to discover something there. Whenever called while there was an advertising pitch for Mexicans, another for Chinese, another for Vietnamese, and so on, there wasn't one for Filipinos. The Filipinos were assumed to be an extension of the American market.

Subconsciously while the Filipinos were assimilate in a distinct ethnic group when it came to being targeted in ads, they remained very visible in a separate ethnic group when it came to looking for jobs, running for public office, and doing pretty much everything else there. The Filipino was still a member of a minority, and not a particularly sensitive one at that. The Filipino could be taken for granted when he sets being sold things to, but he could also be taken for granted when he was selling himself. The sense of both words. Driving even or identity or the just hasn't put the sent-pressure and in campaign, it has put them in a dilemma.

What many Filipinos in the United States seem to have forgotten or failed to appreciate is that they've moved on to a land of immigrants, one that values diversity until only. One where the Indians, the Irish, the Poles, the Semites, the Chinese, the Vietnamese today have prix in their origins despite being staunch Americans. But where individuality, singularity, uniqueness, difference, uniqueness, nurtured as much as belonging just in the collective. Where the richness and possibilities in both Filipino and American are the same time but where it was unfamiliar to be both Filipino and American at the same time. Among Italian-Americans, Chinese-Americans and African-Americans, the first is on equal with the second. Among Filipino-Americans, the first disappears in the second. With Jose Rizal, you're Filipino.

It's like being in Purgatory, halfway between heaven and hell.

Jointly or separately

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ONE OF THE CENTRAL ISSUES IN THE CHARTER debate on Charter change is the rule that the Senate should play. At the moment it is fairly certain that the Senate is not yet willing to join Charter change. But the likelihood is that it will join after the elections of 2010. When it does, how will the voting be—jointly or separately?

That the Senate should be part of the process is beyond question. You are probably familiar with the figure of one-fourth the number of politicians who will question that proposition. As to the manner of voting, however, there is ample debate. Others writers on the subject in the past, but I may not be unfaithful to them by views on the subject.

The constitutional text is not very helpful. It simply says "Any amendment or revision of this Constitution may be proposed by the Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members . . ."

Indeed, there are provisions which specify when the two houses vote separately, namely when breaking a tie between two presidential candidates (Art. VII, 4), when confirming the appointment of a vice president to fill a vacance (Art. VII, 9), when declaring a president to be incapacitated (Art. VII, 11b), and when Congress declares the existence of a state of war (Art. VI, 23[1]). But there is no provision that states that the Constitution wants separate voting if no indicators are given directly.

There is, however, also a provision which requires Congress to vote jointly (namely when Congress wants to revoke or declare unconstitutional a law or a proclamation of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus (Art. VII, 18). From this, it may, with some hesitation, be concluded that when the Constitution wants the two chambers to vote jointly, it so indicates specifically.

From this, however, also a provision which requires Congress to vote jointly naturally raises the question whether a law declaring a national calamity or a proclamation of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus (VII, 18). From this, it may, with some hesitation, be concluded that when the Constitution wants the two chambers to vote jointly, it so indicates specifically.

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My conclusion from these two separate sets of provisions is that the solution in the limited ambiguity cannot be found in any of the separate provisions of the Constitution. These separate provisions do not illumine but only heighten the ambiguity. Thus we are forced to look for clarification and help from elsewhere.

In a Q&A about rules of constitutional interpretation when faced with textual ambiguity? Here are, I suggest as exploration of those aids. And the final conclusion may depend on the modality of interpretation that is chosen. Briefly, what are the possible approaches?

One approach used for dealing with an unclear text is historical. It involves an analysis of the intention of the framers of the Constitution and the circumstances of its ratification.

Another is the contextual approach. This involves drawing inferences from the architecture of the power relationships in the constitutional arrangement. Structure is what the text shows but does not say. An easy example is "separation of powers." The text does not say it, but the actual distribution of powers to three departments shows it.

And, of course, there is the doctrinal approach which simply follows routine judicial decisions. This is the favorite of many lawyers.

Still another is the ethical approach which seeks to interpret the Filipino "minds and aspirations" embedded in the constitutional document.

Finally, one might mix the specialized approaches by weighing and measuring the costs and benefits that might be found in conflicting rules.

I suggest that a combination of the historical and structural approaches will be helpful.

Historically, the current provisions on international treaties was debated on and approved on July 7 and 8, 1986. The prevailing mood then among the members of the Constitutional Commission leaned like a preference for a unicameral legislative body. In fact the draft at hand provided for non-concurrence in terms of Senate going bad a grass—until over $1 trillion and rising. But the social costs, and impact on civil society, are greater.

We economic system that leads to the concentration of economic opportunity and wealth in the hands of a few creates an unequal and unjust society that undermines democracy. Some Filipinos in the near-valued business, career and professional opportunities, only a relatively small group of well-placed and well-connected insiders benefit; the vast majority are denied the opportunity to progress. Government officials who steal billions from 400 million of its people have seen their net incomes magnify or decline over the past decade. The income of the poorest 10 percent has been declining by 2.4 percent each year since the beginning of the 1990s. It is quite normal U.S. CEOs to have in Asia. In contrast, the Gini coefficients of South Korea and Taiwan from the 1960s to the 1990s hovered around 0.34 and 0.29 even as the economies of those countries were growing rapidly.

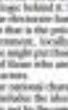
The Chinese Communist Party has cleverly tightened its grip on economics and, therefore, political power. But this has meant that the building blocks necessary for a "rule of law" and reliable property rights that have stagnated for almost two decades, things needed if "authoritarian transition" is failing and its longer-term prospects are uncertain.

China is not becoming Japan, Taiwan or South Korea with large. A large, trembling giant like Russia or Brazil might be a more accurate historical analogy.

Sir John Lee is the foreign policy fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney and a visiting scholar at the Hudson Institute in Washington. He is the author of the book "Will China Fail?"

When size doesn't matter

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

ONE THING IS SURE: GREAT UNDER THE SUN is the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration being the most respected and best liked institution in the country.

The political landscape is littered with the wrecks of formidable party machines that broke down and failed to accomplish their mission: to get a presidential candidate successfully elected. Going back to the presidential campaigns of 1986, 1992, 1998, 2004 and 2007, the machines of MBAL, and Jose de Venecia Jr. all provided overconfidence that barely succeeded the lower house. They all were shot down in defeat. The common complaint of all these candidates was: the local leaders took the money and ran—for office—with the cash of their national candidates for president.

This is the dilemma faced by the President and the cultural administration coalition she has cultivated these long years. Her every effort to put together coalition from the problem of politics being a continuum, in which the power held yesterday becomes less relevant than the power held tomorrow.

Much has been made of the ability of the ruling coalition to maintain its control of the House in the recent past. Even in the administration's first term, its administration has now lost the House since 1946. (Even when the presidents running for reelection lost, their administrations still won majorities in the House of Representatives, with the exception of Ramos.) The ruling coalition's political pillars of guns, goons and gold are most effectively deployed in local races, where the electorate can be held captive.

Neither the lifetime of a specific administration, however, is expected to matter in keeping these administrations in place, but when the president, as party head, must lead the coalition in a campaign to extend the administration's control of government, the House must quickly realign itself and accommodate an administration coalition whose leadership, in the person of the president, now forms itself, by force of necessity into the new, national coalition's administration coalition.

The president's message from her basis: it is not enough to have the House in order to maintain a stable government; she must be accorded permanent living quarters in the national basis. This is the problem facing both the President and her allies some May 2010.

With no levers left to control, forces to consolidate her control over power and stress, no one would follow GMA out of sheer loyalty and for her servants, to remain identified with her is to guarantee personal servitude to all future presidents. This is because their own ambitions will be frustrated and even thwarted by presidents who need defeat—due to her line of fire. So at best, they can—and will—try to maximize their hold on their provincial constituents and, for some, this will be enough. Better to be a big frog in a small pond.

However, if the public can be made to forget the reasons the President and her people are—to the minds of the public—merely lamde drunk, and unsuitable for national office, then they have a fighting chance. And so, bread and circuses. Joe Ejercito Estrada is the inevitable, at least. At best, it opens up avenues for subverting a new reckoning in the polls.

China no longer learning East Asian lessons

COMMENTARY

John Lee

BEFORE THE BOOM, PEAK-WATCHING ECONOMIST Kenneth Rogoff was asked which country had the best managed economy recently he nominated (Latvia, Taiwan and South Korea. The exception is consistent with the widely shared belief that China is the latest and largest successful installment of the "East Asian Miracle" model of economic development. But despite some similarities, looks can be deceiving. The nature, purpose and extent of the role of the state in Chinese economic and society are China apart from its successful East Asian neighbours. In the wake of the global financial crisis, there is one last key question whether China will reach the fruits of successful modernisation that Asian economies such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan enjoy.

The key to success in these countries was the extensive and intensive use of the market mechanism, competition and private enterprise to take off. Even though it was within a context of state-guided capitalism and sometimes even inside, these governments ultimately allowed a "helping hand" to let the invisible hand of market forces, enterprise and capitalist activity—in particular, widespread and open access to economic opportunity and to law, property rights, and social and political stability.

Isn't China doing similar things to achieve growth? Most Western commentators focus on the spectacular success of China's export sector and the emergence of China as the world's factory. But the greater importance of Chinese growth is actually domestically funded fixed investment, which constituted over 50 percent of GDP and over 40 percent of growth in 2008. China is now off the charts in this regard. Taiwan, for example, which had a very impressive fixed investment boom, saw such over 30 years, never had capital investment spending of more than 30 percent of GDP.

But it is not just the high reliance on fixed investment that is striking. It is where the money goes that is all important. China is amassed in that last decade—drawn from the deposits of its citizens funneled into state-controlled banks—cut-rate annual rate of 10 percent, or about 40 percent of all investment activity in the country. Even though state-controlled enterprises produce between one quarter and one-third of all output in the country, they receive over 75 percent of the country's capital, and the figure is rising. The Chinese state sector owns almost two-thirds of all fixed assets in the country. This is the reverse of what occurred in South Korea (as well as in Japan and Taiwan) where the private sector was responsible for two-thirds of all capital during the 1960s and 1970s.

Another case in point: a close examination of the shares on the Shanghai Stock Exchange reveals that only about 50 to 60 approximately 1,200 companies are genuinely private. Between 1998 and 2000, less than 7 percent of the initial public offerings on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges were from private sector companies. The Chinese state sector is 70 percent of all the shares of listed companies. When privately-controlled entities are included in the calculation, it is likely to be around 70-80 percent of all listed shares.

The massive bias toward the state sector would be acceptable if the 120,000 state-controlled enterprises could lead to investors and adept. The bad models except for a handful of artificially insulated state-controlled enterprises, this is not the case.

To put the situation in perspective, China's overall use of capital is twice as inefficient as India's. World Bank findings indicated that about one-third of recent investments made by the state-controlled sector generated more than zero returns. You might increase the chances that the Chinese Communist Party can remain in power, but it is at total losses cost to the country.

The economic cost in terms of Senate going bad a grass—until over $1 trillion and rising. But the social costs, and impact on civil society, are greater.

We economic system that leads to the concentration of economic opportunity and wealth in the hands of a few creates an unequal and unjust society that undermines democracy. Some Filipinos in the near-valued business, career and professional opportunities, only a relatively small group of well-placed and well-connected insiders benefit; the vast majority are denied the opportunity to progress. Government officials who steal billions from 400 million of its people have seen their net incomes magnify or decline over the past decade. The income of the poorest 10 percent has been declining by 2.4 percent each year since the beginning of the 1990s. It is quite normal U.S. CEOs to have in Asia. In contrast, the Gini coefficients of South Korea and Taiwan from the 1960s to the 1990s hovered around 0.34 and 0.29 even as the economies of those countries were growing rapidly.

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The 'Mustangs' of the Philippine Air Force

ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE (AF) led by Lt. Gen. Oscar B. Tolentino, marks its 62nd founding anniversary. It was in July 1947 that the Philippine Army Air Corps was renamed the Philippine Air Force (PAF) and elevated to the status of a separate major command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Col. Pelagio S. Cruz, in operation, became the Philippine Air Force officers to rise to one-star rank as commanding general of the PAF.

REVOLLE

By Edwin F. Tuvera

Although the PAF is officially 62 years old, its roots were sown way back in March 1947 when Governor General Francis Bunce Keesee approved the creation of the Philippine National Guard. The legislation provided for an air unit consisting of 15 officers and 100 enlisted personnel. The group included Lt. Leon to Maliwat of Cebu. He would become the first Filipino military pilot flying solo for the first time in a heavy B-4 bomber in April 1920.

One of the early priorities of Colonel Cruz as PAF chief was the establishment of a fighter base for the new command. When the Philippine Air Force was born, the Philippine Army Air Base to the Philippine government. Cruz immediately set in motion the development of what today is Basa Air Base. Built by the 5th Army Air Corps before World War II, it was improved and used by the Japanese during their occupation and later lengthened by the 5th Air Force was founder base in 1945. Headquarters Air Base would be turned over to the Air Base in honor of Lt. Cesar Basa, the first Filipino pilot to die in aerial combat against Japanese fighter aircraft. Basa Air Base would serve as the home of the fighter units of the PAF.

The Sixth Fighter Squadron was organized under Lt. Lucio Aura, followed a few days later by the activation of the Seventh Fighter Squadron led by Capt. Pedro T. Sicaro. Both units were under the Fifth Fighter Group commanded by Maj. Benito Ebuen.

The Air Force by then had a fighter base and a fighter group, and in the autumn of 1947, the first three P-51s (Mustangs) arrived from Clark, flown by Lts. Jesus Requeza, Emilio Herrera and Eduardo Gonzales. (Air Force [USAF] records indicate that at least 31 P-51s were transferred to the PAF, but the actual total may be higher. Philippine sources claim that only 16 Mustangs were on hand with possibly the balance stored to reserve at Clark. But with so few pilots then available, there were enough pilots for everyone. Incidentally, "Mustang" comes from the Spanish "Mestengo," a wild horse of the Americas. The planes, originally manufactured from bomber brought to the United States by the Spaniards, possibly in the 16th century.

Throughout the Mustang's career in the PAF, it would be used primarily as a fighter bomber. Air-to-air combat training was also part of its role but this was not one that was called upon frequently. Only in the Huk campaign, and at point-to-point encounter, would the PAF had no effective fighter control and organization plane was no aircraft control through radio equipment; and third, the USAF at Clark to effect local care of air defense for the Philippines. Nevertheless, the PAF Mustangs at times realized with USAF units as well as those from Thailand and Taiwan.

The increasing number of available pilots led to the creation of a third fighter squadron, and the Eighth Fighter Squadron was activated under Capt. Julian Paine. The Fifth Fighter Group became the Fifth Fighter Wing.

The original batch of Mustangs dwindled due to accidents and other causes, and by the end of 1949 the PAF's ability or 50 P-51s was made, bringing up the units to full strength with 12 to 13 pilots assigned to each squadron. Each pilot had a "personal" aircraft assigned to him, with others held in reserve. Their planes were marked with names like "Maid of Zamboles," "Climbia," "Red Knights," and "Gammonhead."

The Mustangs participated in anti-Huk operations, particularly in the Sierra Madre ranges. In 1953, Operation Free Home was launched, with the Mustangs flying 68 sorties against Huk camps. In 1954, the Sala Air Raid Group (so [ASAG] was formed to assist Army units operating in hilly areas against Huk bands. The unit was based at Basa Air Base. In addition to air-to-air combat maneuvers, over 220 lb drag maneuvers bombs and 500-lb GP (general purpose) bombs. Napalm was also used on certain times, but only with permission from headquarters in each specific case."

With the end of the Korean War, the USAF assigned the delivery of Mustangs to the PAF until its 1956. The last 20 planes were turned over to the Philippine government. This was the high point in the Mustang's career in the PAF. Aircraft and pilots were plentiful and in 1956, the Fifth Fighter Wing was able to put up 74 Mustangs for the Independence Day flypast.

The Blue Diamonds aerobatic team of the PAF started out with Mustangs. The team lineup was: Jose Gonzalez, watch-mate Lts. Isidro Abaya, Rodolfo Magsaysay, Jesus Arevalo and Cesar Basa. The team's last appearance using Mustangs was at the Philippine Aviation Week celebration in December 1954.

In 1950, after a crash in which the pilot was killed, 3rd headquarters ordered the grounding. The accident of Basa crash-landed. Mustangs were likely grounded in 58. "Two squadrons' worth of pilots killed" was how Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Catalino expressed it. A final flypast with four aircraft was hastily arranged. Lt. Ramon Reinoso, Class 1958, had the privilege of making the last Mustang landing in the PAF.

Said to add a personal note to this column—the Mustang fighter plane we sold to Indonesia, since we have the first pilot who downed an enemy aircraft since the war. The first pilot who downed an enemy aircraft since the war. The fighter unit in Basa. A number of fighter pilots were transferred to Fernando Air Base to serve as instructor pilots in the Flying school. Five F-51 (open cockpit biplane, Consuelo allowed him to break away from the bonds of the earth and soar into the wild blue yonder on my own.

Lt. Marcelo Libot Barbera, another Mustang fighter pilot, would check out in the T-6 advanced trainer. Eventually he would be shooting at me, "Sanamagan, Fernino, you'll get to back killed with your trajectory." Then one morning, after a series of cockpits and landings, he surprised me by coming with his parachute and about the rear of the engine, he shouted, "Sanamagan, Ibon, you're on your own! Report to my office landing."

There are so many other names that should have been included in this article—all Mustang fighter pilots who gave the PAF their best in the years after the separation of the PAF anniversary, we salute them with assurances of our respect and affection.

* * *

Wrote an article "Philippine Frontline" by Carl Schlesman.

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Give us big dreams, instead of big names

MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS often forget the essence of public office. A seat in the government gives one a special privilege to serve the people and the nation. And this privilege public officials, the elected ones especially, owe to the people who have entrusted to them their welfare. This gift consists of an honorable title, preferred or their names, subordinates, necessary resources and, most of all, the power to use this gift in the service of the people. All of that is just one package. How can I find his obvious?

Public service is simply misused by fulfilling the responsibilities of a public servant, as why make a big deal out of it, by displaying a public officials name on every public facility, public servants (get up)? Sir, it's like a slap in the face of constituents. As result. It's as if the names are meant to remind us that we, the people who have placed politicians in power, owe them these sometimes. Shouldn't it be the other way around? They were elected to public office. Therefore, isn't it already given that they must do public service? How can't that be obvious?

So come on his right mind would ever want a politician's name in ridiculously bold letters and not-so-appealing colors as decoration in his surroundings. Unless the politician's name spells beauty and peace. (By the way I'm pretty sure the inscription of the politician's name also synonymous to portion of the project's budget.)

I would always find myself shaking my head in frustration whenever I see the an unwanted phrase "Through the efforts of (politician's name)" on the roads of waiting shed. Well, politicians don't need to make that announcements—if they're true public servants and they do public service with genuinely sincere intentions and dedication.

Instead of plastering their names on the roofs of covered courts, park benches, bridges and other public facilities, why don't we turn our local talents in painting and other related craft to exhibit their artistic abilities on these structures? And have them sign their own masterpieces afterwards. That would be fantastic! It's an opportunity for them to showcase their works of art. Who's known, they might even do the job for free.

And that's just one of the many options as to how we can continuously make our communities a better place to live in. Let others contribute. Don't take-all. Be creative and be bold. Make room for others to contribute their own unique share.

So come on, "honorable gentlemen," there's no need for you to remind us (despite-lots) of your noble deeds. We, the people who voted for you, are not stupid to not know who made all these projects possible.

We don't need big names. We need big dreams.

—JHONNI BALMA,
Del Carmen,
San Fernando, Pampanga

Who's to blame for weak economy

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE news item "Bloody's BP needs miracle to avert recession." (Tribune, 6/25/09)

The Philippine economy is in its worst shape nowadays. The current simple be explained away as the effect of the global economic crisis, because it is there. Macapagal-Arroyo herself and her neo-liberal policies that have caused the massive displacement of peasants, jobmassacres as well as high and low rates of all which have driven many Filipinos into the pit of hunger. She is also pushing for Charter change, which simply means selling the Philippine patrimony.

The Philippines is now by international economic experts as a country on the brink of recession, with 0% (zero-point) growth. In reality we have been in recession for quite a long time. The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) cannot hide this anymore, with the so-called billion declines in manufacturing and trade, which contracted by 6.6 percent and 7.3 percent respectively. Exports sank 18.2 percent, while imports declined 19.2 percent in the first quarter of the year. Agriculture also did its part 2.1 percent and the services sector obtained its growth.

These figures will push the administration to revise its growth targets in order to paint a rosy picture of our economy. It should again "choose" its figures so as to justify its projections; if this what the administration's economists do, as elected officials—let alone the entire Filipino into the pit of hunger. He is also pushing for Charter change, which simply means selling the Philippine patrimony.

What this administration should do is stop fooling the people on the real state of the nation. Political economists have been saying for a long time that basic economic changes have to be made to prevent this crisis, but Ms Arroyo and her cohort is reluctant to listen. I have to say this, but "we told you so" is the most appropriate rejoinder for Ms Arroyo's figures.

—CARL ALA,
carl_ala@yahoo.com

School feeding fattens pockets

THIS IS ABOUT THE "SCHOOLED scam" that has spoiled the feeding program of the Department of Education.

The millions of pesos spent by the government in this overpriced noodles for we so-called food for the School program I which aims to give proper nutrition to schoolchildren) is an unethical, steep expenses. Aim is made the children that's eating up extending nation.

In the first place, many people question the true nutritional value of these noodles, including the more than 19 million packs that were illegally distributed. Notwithstanding their manufacturers' aggressive marketing of its recent noodles, the product is believed to contain far less nutritious than its actually claimed. Instead, food with high nutritional value remains the best source of proper nutrition. Sadly though, millions of Filipinos do not earn enough to buy adequate food.

Instead of nutrition, the DepEd's noodles gave children and their families a false sense that the government is actually doing something to help them. It is a downright sad shameful picture.

The more than P400 million spent to purchase a single measly meal will never give more than 19 million public school children brighter minds, but will probably only farmers purchase of the real rice rips off-cash involved in the true action.

If the government has sincere intentions of helping impoverished schoolchildren achieve better nutrition, it should first conduct a detailed look into the real circumstances that deprive these children of vital mineral and healthful diet. It is very likely that these children were born to families live a hand-to-mouth existence, and whose parents are jobless or underemployed. Hence, the only means to address undernourishment in schoolchildren is to address the families' paltry-with livable income and access to basic social services.

The DepEd should rethink its feeding programs instead of spending hundreds of millions for what appears now to be a disaster-in-the-making. It should focus on addressing the root causes of malnutrition, deficiency among public schoolchildren.

Lastly, the Council for Health and Development (CHD) challenges this country's lawmakers to seriously look into this scandalous project that is a threat to our children's future.

—ELEANOR A. JARA, M.D.,
eianara@ymail.com
Council for Health and Development (CHD),
chdmanila@gmail.com

When your doctors say you have cancer

"HOW, DEBY AND HOW" WAS my first reaction. Who would ever think that a simple surgery to remove a 12.5 cm x 8.0 cm intraperitoneal cystic non-enhancing mass in 2004 would turn me or be a one in a million rare form of cancer baffling to surgeons and oncologists in Manila and New York? Since the cancer was encapsulated in the center of the mass and had no access to speak of, I was not given chemotherapy or radiation after subsequent Computed Tomography (CT scans), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET scans), and eventually my video conferences arranged by Dr. Ana York Bondoc for a second opinion from Mount Sinai-Mt Sinai Medical Center in New York did we learn time the pandemonium perhaps (possibly come from my appendix that had burst 20 years earlier, but was removed only after a week of my being asymptomatic.

In 2006, I was devastated to learn that the cancer had transferred to my omentum and it was considered stage 4. My heart-rending conclusion "I am going to die soon" was dispelled when my oncologist explained stage 4 could also mean the cancer had transferred to another location and not necessarily a time to say pay-your goodbyes.

After another surgery my oncologists and surgeon in Manila informed me they could do no more to help me control my cancer as my adhesions from previous operations for ovarian cysts, appendectomy and hysterectomy would make future surgical procedures very dangerous that may damage other vital organs.

Mount Kettering suggested we check out the website of a well-known surgeon in a hospital in Washington, D.C. who specialized in pseudomyxoma peritonei. We learned that the procedure would be "a meticulous cytoreductive surgery prior to the intraperitoneal chemotherapy installation in order to reduce the tumor burden to its lowest level. Chemotherapy begins in the operating room and may be continued for the first five postoperative days. Only patients with minimal residual intraperitoneal tumor nodules with limited distribution within the abdomen and pelvis are likely to show prolonged benefit." Since Kettering further stated that "Aggressive intraperitoneal chemotherapy treatments directed at large nodules of invasive intraperitoneal cancer will not produce long-term benefits, and are often the cause of excessive morbidity or mortality.

Occasionally, patients with low-grade malignancies such as pseudomyxoma peritonei can travel for several years, but all end-result reports have shown fatal outcomes."

It was time to husband here on with prayers, particularly Our Lady of Lourdes, Guadalupe and Manaoag, and hope for the best. My brother in law Francisco contacted Dr. Harry Oberholzman, head of the International Medical Services of Stanford Hospital and the latter arranged a consultation with the Gastrointestinal Board, made up of eight specialists from the medical, radiation, pathology and surgical oncology and one from general surgery.

They said they could do a partial debulking surgery without significant complications if surgery is not possible due to adhesions, they would recommend a systemic chemotherapy treatment over intraperitoneal, if and when the time came. I was advised to return after six months for interviews.

Meanwhile, my husband Mike and I transferred to Honolulu to be near our two daughters and Stanford. We chastically changed into a less stressful lifestyle and concentrated our efforts to do more exercises. I did—and still do—the stair-walker, elliptical and bicycle in the gym daily and so far, my cancer markers have gone down.

My weight, still healthy at 52, progressively restored me than I was digging my grave with my spoon from eating all the delicious, usual keto-keto, pinapatat etc. that we Filipinos love. Now and for the past two and a half years, I have been on a diet of fish, vegetables and fruits. I avoid sugar and white flour and successfully eliminated coffee and soda from my diet except for an occasional indulgence of a mocha frappuccino from Starbucks. The best advice came from my veterinarian who told me to take two tablespoons of flaxseed oil with cottage cheese daily, drink wheat grass with carrot juice.

Although my cancer markers have normalized now, and my visits to Stanford are now down to an annual basis, my CT scan results last September showed "the disease appears to be stable to slightly worse." Stanford recommends a continuation of the "watchful waiting" unless the signs and symptoms suggest a worsening of the disease. I have a ticking time bomb in my body, but with God's help, I pray, I will defuse it.

Edna Reynoso Antaw, 66, used to write a weekly lifestyle column in Sun Star Baguio and had continued to buy sun's Diet section. While fighting cancer, she is blessed writing a restaurant/ BFF book in collaboration with her sister Rosalina Gonzales.

Will nation be served better with 'Representative' David?

THIS IS IN REACTION TO BIL-dis reports that Randy David will run against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should the latter seek a congressional seat in Pampanga in the 2010 elections. In the past two weeks, had I not been so busy at work, I would have written to the editor saying that there is only one communicator who refines the "big picture" perspective on nationhood, and that is David.

Amid and above the babble and

Health Advisory

Influenza A (H1N1) Revised Response Levels System in Schools

Issued by:
DOH Emergency Management Task Force for the Pandemic Response to Influenza A(H1N1)

	RESPONSE LEVEL 1	RESPONSE LEVEL 2	RESPONSE LEVEL 3	RESPONSE LEVEL 4
CRITERIA	1.1 Confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in other countries but no confirmed case in the Philippines	2.1 Confirmed cases of novel Influenza A (H1N1) in the country 2.2 No confirmed case in the school 2.3 No confirmed community level transmission	3.1 Confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in the country 3.2 Confirmed case in school 3.3 No confirmed community level transmission	4.1 Confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in the country 4.2 Confirmed community level transmission
RESPONSE	1.2 Keep updated about the status and extent of Influenza A (H1N1) globally 1.3 Campaign for proper hand washing, general hygiene and cough/sneeze manners 1.4 Make available hygiene and sanitation facilities 1.5 Line list and monitor health status of students, faculty and non-teaching personnel who have recently traveled to countries with confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) virus infection 1.6 Observe precautionary measures during school gathering	2.1 Confirmed cases of novel Influenza A (H1N1) in the country 2.2 No confirmed case in the school 2.3 No confirmed community level transmission 2.8 Students, faculty and non-teaching personnel with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) shall not report to school but inform the school physician or local health authorities for proper advice 2.9 Isolate in designated room and refer to school physician or healthcare worker persons identified to have ILI while in the school 2.10 Establish referral system with local health care facilities 2.11 Report to local health authorities (MHO/CHO) and/or the regional DOH Center for Health Development	*3.4 Implement Response Level 2 PLUS:* 3.5 *Temporarily suspend classes in affected school (* for the extent of closure, refer to box below)* 3.6 Lift suspension after 10 days	*4.3 Implement Response Level 2 PLUS:* *4.4 As a rule, NO suspension of classes in schools located in areas with community level transmission. Exceptions are:* *4.4.1 Unusually severe illness or clinical manifestations* *4.4.2 Large number of simultaneously ill students and/or school staff* *4.5 Reverse isolation: students and school employees residing in areas without community level transmission should be advised NOT to report to school until the number of ILI in area or school has subsided OR these students and school employees will be required to wear face mask* 4.6 Strengthen public health interventions
Declaration of Suspension of Classes	1.7 No suspension of classes	2.12 No suspension of classes	3.7 If a school has a laboratory-confirmed case of Influenza A (H1N1), the school principal declares suspension of classes 3.8 If two or more schools in one city or municipality have confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1),the Division Superintendent declares the suspension of classes in the affected schools or depending on the location of schools affected, in the entire city or municipality 3.9 The Higher Education Institution heads declare suspension of classes in their respective schools	4.7 The school principal or head decides if school needs to be temporarily closed, based on: 4.7.1 Severity or manifestations of Influenza A (H1N1) illness among student or local population 4.7.2 Number of simultaneously ill students and/or school staff 4.7.3 Recommendation of the DOH or regional Center For Health Development

Reasons for suspending classes are:

- To contribute to containment measures by limiting exposure to index case or cluster of cases in the school setting
- To allow school officials to plan and institute or conduct for intensified campaign in school and community for awareness and behavior change toward
  - frequent hand washing
  - general personal hygiene, including sanitation of personal effects like cell phones and other closely held personal gadgets

o For schools to institute sanitation and decontamination measures in the school:

- General cleaning of the school
- Use of disinfectants for chairs, desks, door knobs, toilets, laboratories and garbage bins
- Ensure provision of water, soap and other supplies / materials for proper hygiene purposes

o For schools to coordinate with local health officials and the DOH regional Centers for Health Development who should document and report the clinical manifestations and progress and investigate the likely source and extent of transmission of the infection.

* The extent or coverage of suspension of classes, college, institute or department or of the closure of schools to contain influenza A (H1N1) infection for Response Level 3 depends on the following factors:

- Physical configuration of school buildings such that the area or areas frequented by the first confirmed cases can be delimited to a specific building or floor level and only classes in these areas may be suspended
- Section or class assignments of students. Students or block sections can be suspended altogether when one of them is a confirmed Influenza A (H1N1) case while sparing the rest of the school population from disruption of classes especially when there are no confirmed cases in other sections
- School contingency plan of action to minimize both the spread of infection and the disruption of classes. This should include special arrangements for students on home quarantine to be able to catch up with lessons and for students on several isolation (as in Response Level 4) to be accommodated in schools located in areas without community-level transmission
- Evaluation and recommendation of the DOH central or regional Centers for Health Development and local health authorities

Affected schools should inform DepEd/CHED/TESDA regarding their decisions to suspend classes and/or close the school.

- Confirmation of community level transmission is done by the Department of Health. School administrators shall closely coordinate with DOH regional Centers for Health Development in this regard.
- The Secretary of DepEd Chairperson of CHED/Director General of TESDA and their authorized representatives or officials may suspend classes according to information available to them or the recommendation provided by the DOH.

As a rule, suspension of classes is lifted 10 (calendar) days after the diagnosis of the known confirmed case. By this time, school authorities should have carried out intensified hygiene and sanitation measures, contingency school program implementation and coordination with local health officials.

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o bumisita sa http://www.doh.gov.ph/H1N1

MILES FOR PROGRESS

Biyahe ng Pangulo, Pakinabang ng Bayan

JOBS GENERATION

US$2.2 billion worth of investments and job opportunities from South Korea

US$500 million worth of Overseas Development Assistance projects from Japan

US$2 billion property development investment for Fort Bonifacio from China's Shimao Property Holdings Limited

Two giant firms in the Middle East – Al Kharafi and Qtel – to invest up to US$1 billion

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with Japan Prime Minister Taro Aso

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with Chinese President Hu Jintao

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

US$700 million investment by Shimao Group in a hotel project

180 million euros from Spain for construction of steel bridges and modular roll on-roll off ports

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung-Bak

PROTECTING FILIPINO CONCERNS

US$190 million benefits for Filipino war veterans

The emir of Kuwait granted commutation of sentence of Marilou Ranario

Support of Syria and Egypt for the Philippines' bid for observer status in the Organization of Islamic Conference

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

ENERGY COOPERATION

Potential cooperation agreements with Russia on air flights, defense and energy

Memorandum of understanding with Brazil on renewable energy, bioethanol and bioenergy cooperation

AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENT

Signing of a memorandum of understanding with Bahrain to establish a general framework for agriculture and fisheries cooperation in Mindanao

Saudi monarch has formed an inter-agency committee composed of the ministries of foreign affairs, agriculture, commerce and industry to come up with a program for agriculture investment

Chinese firm to construct a thread processing plant sourced from palm and banana trees

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev

TOGETHER, WE WILL BEAT THE ODDS

Across the NATION

Bishop slams streamers of politicians

Electric consumers organize to protect power co-operatives

ILLEGAL LOGS
Army troops belonging to 43rd Infantry Battalion seized 15,000 board feet of illegally cut lumbers in Diteapan, Tagoloan more in Lanao del Norte last week.

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—LUCENA BISHOP Emilio Marquez has assailed the proliferation of banners and streamers of local politicians streaming all conceivable messages and advocacies for public exposure and edge in next year's elections.

"I'm sure sick and nauseous with all these banners and streamers of politicians everywhere. What is this? They are not doing any good for the welfare of the people with these streamers," Marquez said in his homily during Sunday Mass at the Saint Ferdinand Cathedral here.

He did not mention the names of the politicians concerned.

But many of the banners carry the name of Quezon Gov. Rafael Nantes, greeting his constituents on office promotion and passing in government, foreign exchanges, and announcement of government projects and festivals.

The streamers are displayed in key roads and at the provincial capital ground, Perez Park and near the Quezon Medical Center on the city outskirts.

Streamers of Rep. Proceso Alcala, who belongs to one of the oldest political clans in the province, have also been placed in different prominent spots in central Quezon.

Those seen had to include the names of his older brother, Board Member Vicente "Bulit" Alcala, and nephew, former Vice Mayor Bendet Alcala, which has the abbreviation "HON." (for Honorable) before his name.

Streamers of Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr., who belongs to the city's leading political family, have also been hung in front of the new City Hall buildings at the city proper and in Barangay Isabang.

Electric consumers organize to protect power co-operatives

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—BIG PLAYERS IN the power industry are eyeing to buy out the country's most viable rural electric cooperatives and the move could compromise the bid to energize remote villages in the next few years, an official of the Electric Consumers Advocacy of the Philippines said.

Edwin de la Torre, Ifugo national convenor, said next year's elections could disturb any other landscape for rural electrification as it could provide the vehicle for lawmakers to pass measures sympathetic to profit-oriented corporations.

"That's why we formed the Ifugo to mobilize electric consumers in the provinces to see to it that rural [electrification] would not be sacrificed," he said.

De la Torre, a former power and political detainee, spoke about the future of rural electric cooperatives to the country during the Multi-Sectoral Electric Advisory Council (MSEAC) and Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Benec) general assembly at the Benguet State University here on Saturday.

Only Terra declined to name these big players but said they were eyeing 20 of the 119 electric cooperatives belonging to the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Philreca) because of their good performance.

"The Benguet Electric Cooperative (Benece) is one of the cooperatives that had caught the attention of prospective investors," he said.

He said the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) was laudable since it mandated reforms in the energy industry.

But the law has also opened opportunities for companies to take interest in buying rural cooperatives. —Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Couple killed over garbage thrown in backyard

CEBU CITY—A HEATED ARGUMENT over garbage proved fatal.

A couple was killed on Saturday by their neighbor, who got mad after the garbage of the victims was repeatedly thrown in his backyard.

SPO2 Rolito Asmao-an, homicide investigator of the Lapu-Lapu City Police Office, identified the fatalities as Lyndon Sun, 45, and wife Maria Miñinda, 44, both of Barangay Marcat, Lapu-Lapu City.

The suspect, identified as Isaac Peñalosa Ocmiciano, 39, a fisherman, who allegedly had a heated argument with the Sun couple on Friday night over the garbage scattered in his backyard, waited for Lyndon early on Saturday and shot the latter in the chest as he was leaving his house for work at around 7:30 a.m. in the same hospital.

Maria Miñinda, who rushed out of their house when she heard the gunfire, was shot as well, Asmao-an said.

Shaun Miñinda, who was hit in the chest, was declared dead on arrival at the Marian Doctors Hospital. Lyndon died two hours later at around 7:30 a.m. in the same hospital.

Asmao-an said they could not find any empty shell at the crime scene, which led them to believe that Ocmiciano had used a revolver.

Ocmiciano is now being hunted by the police, said Asmao-an. —Rosevelyn Espadilanan, Inquirer Visayas

LANDBANK's RESPONSE
TO THE PAID ADVERTISEMENT OF JOSEFINA LUBRICA
(Philippine Daily Inquirer, June 26, 2009 issue)

The petition for certiorari filed by the Land Bank of the Philippines questioning the legality of the Order of DAR Adjudicator Conchita Miñas dated October 30, 2008 and the subsequent act of Meralco transferring the 42 Million shares of stock of LANDBANK in Meralco in favor of Josefina Lubrica was dismissed by the Court of Appeals in CA G. R. SP No. 106104, **not** because of the Supreme Court decision in DARAB vs. Lubrica (G. R. No. 159145), but because the Court of Appeals considers the petition to have become moot and academic since the Order of Miñas had been cancelled and withdrawn by DAR Adjudicator Marivic C. Casabar in her Order dated December 15, 2008.

The following is quoted from the Decision of the Court of Appeals:

"Indeed, the instant petition for certiorari has been rendered moot and academic by the **December 15, 2008 Order** of the new RARAD Marivic C. Casabar, nullifying the October 30, 2008 Order of public respondent Conchita Miñas x x x . The pertinent portion of the December 15, 2008 Order x x x reads:

> "Considering the patent and indubitable illegality of the Order, subject hereof, virtually a defiance of express orders of the Supreme Court in the said case and, in compliance and strict observance with the said mandatory and extant directives of the Supreme Court, it is hereby **RESOLVED** and **DIRECTED** that the said Order of October 30, 2008 in DARAB CASE No. V-0405-0001-00 should be, as hereby it is, **RECALLED** and **WITHDRAWN** and any action taken pursuant thereto or by authority thereof are **DEEMED NULLIFIED and CANCELLED** x x x All thereof are **DEEMED QUASHED** and of no force and effect."

The Decision of the Court of Appeals therefore did **not** affirm or validate the October 30, 2008 Order of Miñas and the subsequent act of Meralco in transferring the shares of stock of LANDBANK to Josefina Lubrica.

Because the Decision of the Court of Appeals still fails to settle issues vital to the controversy, LANDBANK will elevate the petition to the Supreme Court for the final and definitive ruling on the issues.

The success of the agrarian reform program in the country depends to a large extent on the payment of just compensation to landowners. The transfer of LANDBANK's shares of stock then worth P2.4 Billion to Josefina Lubrica as payment for a land worth only P4 Million as valued by the Department of Agrarian Reform is definitely **unjust compensation** and may in fact contribute to the failure of the program. Thus, the reason why LANDBANK is questioning the legality of the Order of Miñas and the transfer of its shares of stock to Lubrica is to ensure the success of the program and not to derail it.

The investing public is once more warned that any sale, disposition or transfer of the disputed LANDBANK shares of stock in Meralco is subject to the final outcome of this case.

SHOWTIME! Inquirer Lifestyle columnists Maurice Arcache (left) and Tess Prieto-Valdes, and Tristan Ouano entertain the audience during the "Face Off" fashion show sponsored by the Inquirer Lifestyle section and Samsung at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. RAMON ESTELLER

High fashion, arts merge in CCP show

From page A1

duelling (since the negotiations) for three one-seats were swept away. That was how shining the moment was—the majesty and pomp of the audience, the ghost presence of the unheard orchestra members in the wall-vines.

In a smooth flow, the PPO under the baton of resident conductor Agripino Bautista, played "Sarangpuri at Pape," "Pink Panther Theme," "Whitney Capriccio," "Bugoy's Holiday," "Tagumpay Nating Lahat," "Modern on Classics" and "Kanyenkoy Suerte."

Musical experience

It was probably the first time for some of the voices and the 20 soundstages in the stadium to set foot at the CCP and for many in the audience, perhaps the first time also to watch the PPO perform. Sunyeon briefly.

Which must have been why many were left to wonder at the orchestral music talent before them. To these young Filipinos, the experience was glorious, if not glamorous.

Yet the evening's glamour and glitz behind the prestigious band-as-mouth-orchestra of the arts in the country, though the glamour of the exercise was probably the last thing on the minds of the PPO musicians.

While subsidized by the CCP and relatively secure in their employment, the PPO musicians certainly could use a boosting aesthetic. And artists, particularly from the performing arts, could use a thriving profession.

Plight of artists

CCP president Nestor Jardin has pointed out the unjustness of the plight of the country's artists would not be so ignored if only they could be seen as an economic asset—recognized for their economic contributions.

The "Face Off" fashion show staged by Inquirer Lifestyle with Samsung brought to the fore the CCP and with it, the PPO. It was a good occasion to present so much little-known data.

An informal study by the Creative Industry Task Force has revealed that the creative industry contributes about 5 percent to the gross domestic product.

The task force is composed of representatives from the CCP, the Department of Trade and Industry and its International subsidiaries arm, the Center for International Trade, Expositions and Missions (Citem), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the heads of various cultural and creative organizations.

It was formed mainly to consult with industrial mapping of the country's artists, craftspeople and professionals in order "to convince the government that we exist...so they would institute policies accordingly," Jardin said.

Creative subsectors

The task force, which held a forum two years ago, defined the creative industry as consisting of those economic activities that capitalize on creativity and cultural content, producing goods and services with cultural and creative value.

Culture includes...including the hand or culinary arts professions, for instance, is a subsector of this industry.

Clearly are, therefore, considered part of the creative industry, ranging from visual artists and designers (fashion, furniture and interiors, etc.), across from the performing arts, theater, music, dance, film, broadcast or TV, new media (Internet, mobile), the literary arts, publishing (magazines, newspapers and periodicals).

The output of this industry is covered by intellectual property rights and considered of cultural value.

In New York City, the creative touch here provided the strongest area of economic growth. From 2000 to 2002, it grew by 13.2 percent, with 32,000 jobs added, compared to the 8.3 percent increase of the city's overall job total.

The task force also learned that in Europe and Asia (led by Singapore and Thailand), governments already recognize this creative industry.

Unrecognized in RP

"So early as the 1980s, many governments, such as Britain, recognized that there had been a whole new economy emerging since the 1960s, characterized by output of human services—created not by machines," Jardin explained.

"The British government did a culture industry mapping, and was surprised that collectively, artists and creative people contributed 8.5 percent to the gross domestic product," he said.

"With such recognition came appropriate government support through policies, infrastructure, even human resource programs."

Jardin noted that the Philippines must be the only country in Asia that did not recognize its creative industry. Thailand has a One Community-One Product project where skills...from textile to quality control to marketing—in a community are given support to develop, and are linked to tourism.

Ten years ago, Singapore already planned its creative industry by identifying it as one of strength. Fashion, graphic and industrial design, media) that would not be well-wound up by the co-taught of many many buying from China.

Korea is the perfect example of a country that capitalized on its creative industry to boost the economy, with its Korean telenovela, medicine and even cuisine.

Telenovela tourism

"Think of the PR and promotion these telenovelas have created for Korea. Not only did they boost tourism in Korea—now have regular 9% tour groups, for instance, visiting telenovela sites—they've also improved the image of Koreans. Now women want to marry Korean men, thanks to the good-looking Koreans in telenovela series," Jardin said, half in jest.

Korea has a certain agency that researches trends, fashion and the arts, and how these can be incorporated in popular media and entertainment—again in aid of culture tourism.

The Creative Industry Task force aims to validate the figures that would measure the industry's contribution to the gross national product, and to lobby with government to institute a national plan for the development of human resource, infrastructure support and policies.

As the lovers moment of the CCP the morning of "Face Off," we saw a middle-aged man with a bandaged arm, chatting with another man. Must have been almost breathless, we thought. They could have been artists, and they looked a bit tight.

It's a country that has yet to take one of its artists, that night was a world away from the glamor of the evening ahead.

Read-along relives young Rizal's love

From page A1

mia. I stood up, I made them laugh."

Montano, host of the TV game show "The Singing Bee," said he planned to start a similar activity for the foundation he put up, the Pamilyang Children Foundation Inc., whose aim is to help underprivileged kids in Bohol through education.

Free books

"These days, children are into computers; they hardly read. That's why I'm encouraging my fellow artists to read to kids—to join activities like this, to help children get into reading," Montano said.

The nearly 100 children in the audience, mostly Grades 3 and 4 pupils from Nuggoo ong Elementary School in Ubay City and children of the Ortigas Foundation's employees, were given free copies of Adarna's "Unlimang Ingat ng Isang" that was launched during the read-along on Saturday.

"This year, we decided to give books to each of the kids so they can really read along," said Joyce Tinio, a senior marketing associate for Adarna House.

Every month, the Inquirer Read-Along will feature a Kuwentong Adarna segment, where 100 books will be distributed to children in the audience and an Adarna storyteller will lead the storytelling.

Successful

Cheri Kapuzan, special collections librarian for the Ortigas Foundation Library, said she was surprised that the read-along drew a lot of kids, adding that she came in the session with daughter Hannah and niece Iris.

Aileen Mesic, external programs coordinator of the foundation, said Bataan's read-along was the first of "Book Bonanza," a two-month long event launched on May 9.

Focusing on the value of books and reading, the event is organized by the Ortigas Foundation Library, Lopez Memorial Museum and Library and Robinsons' Children's Library.

Ocean Park read-along

On June 28, some 50 street children and public school students were also treated to a special read-along session at the Manila Ocean Park, featuring television personality Dingdong Consjeco, child actor Angelique Velez, TV host Rico Kayumi and Inquirer storyteller Greg Montemayor.

The session marked Hands On Manila's Breakfast Club's eighth year anniversary.

Consjeco read "Tico Defenders: Mga Batang Superhero ng Kalikasan," a story by the Renewable Energy Development Program (REDP) of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of Energy.

She was joined by Velez and other kids from the "Pinoy Green Academy" of USAID-REDP volunteers for the environment, who acted out the story.

Kayumi read Marc Buckingham's "The Bravest Fish," published by Scholastic. Montemayor read "Cinderella Tom," adapted by Ichiro Mitakahajashi and illustrated by Dennis Tarnashi.

The latter is a "Kamishibai" story (using big beautifully illustrated pictures) about a boy who spends three days under the sea to save a turtle. When he returns to the village, he finds out that 100 years have passed.

After the session, the children were treated to a free tour of Ocean Park.

Sponsors

Saturday's session, hosted by Joann Inquoco senior Bach Navarra, was held in cooperation with the Ortigas Foundation Library, Lopez Memorial Museum and Library, Robinson's Children's Library, Studio One executive producer Carlo Bernardi, Museum's manager Sienna Japitana, Rizal Chua of ABS-CBN Corporate Affairs, Adarna House, Digna Aquino of Library Hub of the Division of Pasig City Ermyr Rivera and Nora Cuaco of Robinsons Marketing Corp.

The Ocean Park session, hosted by Inquoco's two editor in chief Chico de la Vega, was done in cooperation with Manila Ocean Park, Tiffanians Marketing Corp., Krispy Kreme, Haven On Manila, Digna Aquino of Library Hub of the Division of Pasig and the USAID-REDP.

The Inquirer Read-Along, launched in May 2007 by Inquirer Research, Library and Archive Inquirers, aims to promote the love of reading among children through storytelling sessions with celebrities and volunteer readers.

The next regular read-along session at the Inquirer office in Makati City will be on July 11 at 10 a.m., featuring "Umagang Kay Ganda" hosts Pinky Webb, Winnie Cordeta and Audrey Tabernas, as well as Sun Star.com and Sophia School teachers.

Interested participants may contact Ellen Cipriano at 897-8080 loc. 329 by exercise. Slots are on a first-come, first-served basis. With a report from Roberto Quiocho, Inquirer Research

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Jackson's family seeks new autopsy

Point page A1

Underbelly of fame—celebrities, docs and drugs

LOS ANGELES—DECEMBER. Jackson's death has lifted (veil) on the elusive underbelly of fame, with associates of the pop icon linking star at celebrity-studded doctors who flaunted powerful narcotics to the stars.

Jackson, who died on Thursday at age 50 after collapsing at his home in Beverly Hills, had a long history of prescription drug use, stretching back to 1993 when allegations of child abuse were leveled against him.

Reports that Jackson had been injected with a powerful painkiller by a personal physician shortly before his death triggered speculation that the star had a ready supply of prescription medications.

According to Jackson's close friend and confidante Anne-Marie Rivas and trained cardiologist Deepak Chopra, the mainstream media world is rife with doctors who trade their services drugs for celebrity.

"There's a plethora of doctors in Hollywood that are doing peddlers, they are drug pushers," Chopra told CNN. "They just happen to have a medical license."

Chopra spoke of a "huge problem" the Hollywood had with "celebrity doctors who are using celebrity people into the drug experience but then they participate in so that people become dependent on them.

'It's a disease'

"I think this is something that really should be investigated because it's a disease," Chopra added.

"The No. 1 cause of drug addiction in the world, and particularly in the United States, is not street drugs but medical prescription drugs given legally by physicians."

The total collapse of drugs and celebrity has been one of Hollywood's longest-running curiosities, whether the disorder-ing addiction battle fought by Judy Garland before her death in 1969 aged 47 or several cases, such as the accidental overdose of Australian actor Heath Ledger in New York in 2008.

Chopra revealed that he first had an inkling that Jackson was receiving drugs from multiple sources following his 2005 acquittal on child-sex charges when the star had stayed at his home.

"At one point, he started asking me for a prescription. He knew I was a physician. I had a license. He asked me for a prescription for a narcotic. And I said what the heck do you want a narcotic prescription for?" Chopra said.

Murray's account

"It suddenly dawned on me that he was already taking these and that he had probably a number of doctors who were giving him these prescriptions," he said.

Chopra's concerns appeared to be supported by the former nanny of Jackson's three children, Grace Rwizarubu, who was quoted in British newspapers on Sunday as saying she regularly had to pump the star's stomach.

"He also was addicted to any over-painkillers, she said in statements requested by The Sunday Times.

"I had to pump his stomach many times. He always asked so much of it," said Rwizarubu, 42.

"There were one period that he was so bad that I didn't let the children see him ... He always ate too little and asked for more."

Anna Nicole

The circumstances surrounding Jackson's demise have also evoked eerie comparisons with the 2007 death of former Playboy model Anna Nicole Smith.

Smith died of an accidental drug overdose in a Florida hotel, the autopsy subsequently found a lethal cocktail of several prescription drugs in her body.

Her boyfriend and two doctors are currently facing trial in California, accused of conspiring to provide the playmate blonde sex symbol with prescription drugs.

"These individuals repeatedly and excessively furnished these kinds of prescription pills to Anna Nicole Smith, often by no legitimate medical purpose," California Attorney General Edmund Brown said in March. /AFP

Doc 'not a suspect'

But a spokesperson for Murray on Saturday maintained that the cardiologist was "in no way a suspect" in the pop singer's death.

Murray "helped identify the circumstances around the death of the pop icon and clarified many inaccurate reports," Michael Levelle said in a statement after a three-hour interview with detectives.

"Investigators say the doctor is in no way a suspect and remains a witness in this tragedy," Levelle stressed.

Police confirmed that they had interviewed Murray, adding that he was cooperative and "provided information which will aid the investigation."

The statement said Murray spoke to the authorities and stayed at the police station "consulting and consoling the Jackson family."

It also said Murray had been in Los Angeles since Jackson's death, and planned to stay here until his cooperation was no longer needed.

Family wants answers

A lawyer representing Murray, Matt Alford, said he had no knowledge of any statements given to (before) by the physician.

"It's a human tragedy and (so) (Murray's) upset about the death of Mr. Jackson," Alford told CNN. "He's not a suspect in the death of Mr. Jackson."

However, Anne Jackson said the family had questions of their own.

"They (the family) are suspicious of this doctor and they have real reason to be because any other doctor would say 'Here's what happened to the last hour of his life and I was there, I gave him some medicine,'" he said.

"He owes it to the family and to the public to say, 'These were the last hours of Michael's life and here's what happened.' That's a reasonable expectation," he added.

Anger among pals, fans

Friends and associates of Jackson took to the airwaves to vent anger over the role of advisers and physicians that surrounded the star.

Now rap guru and Jackson confidante Darryl Dragon—a qualified cardiologist—told CNN Monday: "I think drugs killed him." (For related story on this page.)

Anger was also beginning to be seen among fans who have gathered around the globe to pay their thousands to pay tribute to Jackson in what have been hugely-joyous entertainers of his life.

Hit the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, Jehovah Caution, 46, sobbed inconsolably as she dictated the "evil people" who she accused of driving Jackson to his death.

"The guy would never have a fly but all of these evil people would do everything to destroy him just to get his money," Caution said. "I don't think he wanted to live anymore." /AFP

Fil-Am to sue RP torturers

Point page A1

other they did to me," Rosas said.

"They can't get away with what they did to many people. Many families are still looking for their loved ones and many more still missing."

Ananda Sabesa, Rosas' lawyer in the Unit. of States, said his client would seek damages in a US federal court against the Philippine government.

Where she said his group would file a complaint before the US Department of State and the United Nations.

Writ of amparo

Rosas was visiting the Philippines for an "important program" last month when she was reported missing in La Paz, Tarlac, on May 19. She returned to her Tinker home on May 26. She said she was abducted by men she believed belonged to the military.

Rosas is a member of the US chapter of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), a leftist group. Bayan said that from Rosas' account, it appeared she was detained at a military camp in Nueva Ecija, presumably Fort Magsaysay.

The lawyers for reported Rosas' ordeal on June 15, asking an affidavit she submitted to the Supreme Court that granted her petition for a writ of amparo, a legal remedy designed to protect a person from harassment by security forces and requiring them to investigate allegations of abuses.

Rosas has returned to the United States and her camp conference yesterday marked the first time she has told her story in a public forum, Bayan said.

UN concern

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, denied that Rosas was tortured by military agents at Fort Magsaysay.

"Nothing of what she said happened. He already asked all units in the area and we found that they have nothing to do with that," Brawner said over the phone.

The Philippine military and the police have been lauded for decades by allegations of torture, summary executions and other forms of abuses.

Last month, the UN Committee Against Torture expressed grave concern that perpetrators of torture in the Philippines, including the military and the police as well as senior officers, have operated under "a climate of impunity."

The committee called on the Arroyo administration to investigate such cases and punish those responsible. It deplored the "the very limited number of convictions" resulting from government investigations.

One was called 'Sir'

Nilsang a Mark Missot, Rosas told the media between sobs how her abductors beat her and how one said they were "instruments of God" to make rebels return to the fold of the law.

"I told them that my kind does not torture people," Rosas said.

Rosas and two companions, Aurelio Catubao and John Edward Swaby, were arrested on June 19. Catubao, 46, was later freed followed by Cambos. Swaby has been reportedly released but has not surfaced.

Reading portions from her affidavit, Rosas said she was constantly grilled by men who addressed one of them as "Sir." She said the man told she was abducted because she was a member of the New People's Army (NPA).

"I told them I had rights and I was not a lawyer, I told them I was just a writer and a volunteer. They told me that even if a year would pass, I would never see a lawyer. That is there, I had no rights," she said.

'I couldn't breathe'

The interrogation also asked if she was ready to die.

"They told me before they killed people, they made them pee and that from pale before they die, and then they dropped me out of my cell," Rosas said.

After more beatings, one of the torturers pulled two plastic bags over her head.

"I started to tell them I could not breath anymore, stopped my sobs and (I was) thinking I was going to die but then he released the hold," she said.

"I knew it was the military that had me. They kept telling me that I was a member of the NPA and made me sign some documents I refused. I kept telling them I was a victim and health care volunteer."

Plea for justice

Rosas asked the American and Filipino people "and all believers of truth and justice" to help her and other torture victims get justice.

"It has to end, the killings, enforced disappearances, the abductions and torture," she said, also breaking into tears again.

Nilsa's claimed the Philippine government was trying to escape liability by saying Rosas' story was "staje-managed."

"Malacañan was convinced. That is a fact," he said.

According to a press release by the local human rights group Karapatan, there have been 1,020 cases of torture and 1,023 victims of extrajudicial killings since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001. During that period, there have been 202 victims of enforced disappearances, it said.

With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy

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OMBUDSMAN IMPOSES 6-MONTH PREVENTIVE SUSPENSION W/O PAY

4 gov't officials probed for scam

By Philip C. Tubeza

OMBUDSMAN MA. MERCEDITAS N. Gutierrez has ordered the six-month preventive suspension without pay of four public officials pending an investigation of their alleged involvement in a tax scam.

Caloocan City Register of Deeds Emmanuel F. Leonardo and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) officers Myrna Lou I. Tubije, Anabelle Hercinio and Natalia C. Donaldo were ordered suspended after they were accused of grave misconduct, dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service in connection with their assessment and collection of taxes from Ma. Theresa S. Manalaysay.

"Let this be a warning to public officers not to participate in these scam. Every year, the public suffers are cheated out of billions of pesos because of these scams," said Secretary Jose Ma. V. Saraloga Jr., Presidential Adviser on Revenue Enhancement.

Saraloga was the head of a special task force...composed of representatives from the Department of Justice, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission of Audit—which investigated and filed the complaint against the four officials.

The task force was created to probe corruption and irregularities in the transfer of real properties, and prosecute the private persons and public officers involved in these scams.

Lower tax rate

The case against the four was based on the BIR officers' failure to collect a six percent capital gains tax on a real estate transaction entered by Manalaysay.

According to the BIR officials, Manalaysay should pay only a three percent withholding tax on all her real estate transactions because she was "habitually engaged in the selling of real estate properties."

Leonardo, meanwhile, registered the real estate transaction even though the tax paid by Manalaysay was grossly underassessed and underpaid.

However, the Ombudsman later ruled that Manalaysay was not habitually engaged in the business of selling real properties and as such, was not qualified for the lower tax rate.

In her order which was issued recently, Gutierrez said the preventive suspension of the public officers was warranted because the evidence of their guilt was strong, adding that their continued stay in office might prejudice the case filed against them.

She also said the charges against them involved dishonesty and grave misconduct and would warrant their removal from the service.

DID YOU KNOW

RAMSAY G. E. Arevamis and the Arevamis Stadium in Quezon City were named after Norberto Salandanan Arevamis. He was appointed mayor of Quezon City in 1964 by then-President Ramon Magsaysay upon the recommendation of Nacionalista Party president Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez. Arevamis ran for the post until 1971.

Zyrl L. Abrahan, Inquirer Research

Ex-PNP chief said to be eyeing Lim's post in 2010

By Tina G. Santos

IN SEVERAL AREAS IN THE City of Manila, one can see

Police team to probe Taguig salvaging case

By Hiza Cadorian Calleja

A POLICE TEAM HAS BEEN TASKED TO look into the case of four men who were believed to have been summarily executed

Spearheading CSR as Usual *despite* Business Unusual

The economic crisis has made the conduct of business unusual today. More than ever, CSR should be prioritized to help the less privileged in weathering financial crises and become more productive members of society.

The League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) will conduct its CSR Expo 2009, which will focus on how the corporate sector can partner with micro and small entrepreneurs and provide access to skills, market, and opportunities.

The two-day expo and conference will feature speakers from LCF member corporations as they present case studies on how their business has contributed to the development of less privileged communities. Moreover, the expo will highlight exhibits of company products and services as well as a series of lectures on entrepreneurial skills development.

CSR Expo Speakers

William Kramer
The Global Challenge Network Founder
President

Federico Lopez
First Gen Corporation
President and CEO

Tony Tan Caktiong
Jollibee Foods Philippines
CEO

Annie Garcia
SM Supermalls
President

CSR Expo Program

July 9, 2009 - Day 1	July 10, 2009 - Day 2
Opening Plenary	Breakouts A: Enterprise Development
Luncheon Plenary	Lunch Plenary
Debate/Panel Discussion: Business Unusual Today	Breakouts B: Social and Environmental Agenda
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DPWH asks motorists for a little more patience

By Marlon Ramos

PLEASE BEAR WITH US.

This was the message of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to Metro Manila residents yesterday amid complaints regarding the daily traffic jam created by the reconstruction of a flyover in Quezon City and the flooding triggered by a drainage dike in Malabon City.

Texico said the project was part of 6 projects to link the South and North Luzon Expressways through the C-3 Road as ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address two years ago.

The flyover, which would allow connect the Mindo-Cavite Coastal Road to the 41.44-km. to NLEX, would be completed before the summer, he added.

Motorists caught in the daily bottleneck in the area have been blaming the DPWH for its alleged failure to issue a public advisory about the start of the project last week.

"With this, the department [asks for] the cooperation of the public since the construction would inconvenience [them]," Tayao said in a statement.

Undersecretary Romeo Mendoza, DPWH chief for Luzon operations, said the 300-meter, two-line flyover would also have access roads for vehicles going to and from Commonwealth Avenue and C-5 Road.

"Once the project is completed, it will be beneficial to all motorists and businesses in the area," Mendoza said.

"Motorists, especially those coming from Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela City, would no longer use U-turn slots in Commonwealth Avenue to go to Luzon Avenue or the project directly connects both roads," he added.

Meanwhile, the director of the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela Flood Control Project called on the Malabon City government to refrain from blocking the DPWH for last week's flooding that displaced thousands of residents.

"Instead of blaming each other and pointing accusing fingers, it would be better if [government officials] would help solve the problem," DPWH Engr. Carlo Bautista told the Inquirer.

He said the floodwaters that inundated Barangay Gomez came from the breached portion of a nearby dike which overflowed due to the water pressure from the swollen Malabon River.

According to Bautista, a team of DPWH inspectors found out that the broken portion of the dike was only made of soil so it

ATTENTION, MMDA

Saul Lo, 25, of Quiapo, writes: "Pls. Bayan Fernando, pak ingat sa mga nag-u-u-turn sa gitna ng tawid sa Quezon Avenue (kanto sabe). Di alam yung mga bata pag nagkaroon sila ng bad trip dito (pati ako) at bigla nag-stop at nag-giggle ng u-turn sa gitna. Minor stop MMDA para sa safety ng mga pasaway. (Please put up cameras on both sides of the entrance to the Quezon Avenue underpass. The hassles and impatient cause traffic on the area because they don't line up and they try to cut in at the entrance. Sometimes, there are MMDA traffic enforcers but they don't do anything.)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tiñga asked: End drug trade

By Allison W. Lopez

THE RECENT ARREST OF AN alleged notorious drug peddler has been hailed as the latest indication of the flourishing narcotics trade in Tagaig City, a councilor said recently.

Councilor Anito Alit said the second last week of April Tiñga by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency showed that the city government is indeed the center in the country for drug transshipment.

"[Tiñga's] arrest only proves that the city government is really a haven for illegal drugs," he said

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US plans to change antidrug efforts in Afghanistan

KABUL—THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan told allies on Saturday that the United States was shifting its drug policy in Afghanistan away from eradicating opium poppy fields and toward surveilling drug supplies and cultivating alternative crops.

"The Western policies against the opium crop, the poppy crop, have been a failure," the envoy, Richard C. Holbrooke, told reporters at the Group of Eight conference in the northern Italian city of Trieste, Reuters reported. "They did not result in any damage to the Taliban, but they put farmers out of work and they alienated people and drove people into the arms of the Taliban."

Holbrooke said the United States would begin phasing out eradication efforts, and more emphasis would be placed on helping Afghan farmers make a living through other crops and on seizing both drugs coming out of the country and growing and processing supplies coming in.

The Bush administration had put steady pressure on President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to step up eradication efforts, arguing that destroying the Taliban would require depriving it of drug revenues. But in recent years, some US diplomats have argued that eradication was costly and difficult to carry out. And Karzai had resisted those efforts, arguing that crop substitution and foreign aid to stimulate the economy would be more effective.

Holbrooke said on Saturday that the United States had "wasted hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars" on the eradication programs. "The poppy farmer is not our enemy. The Taliban are," he was reported as saying.

The Afghan ministry of counternarcotics, General Khodaidad, who uses just one name, said on Saturday that Karzai and the Afghan government wanted to see the details of the policy shift before commenting fully.

"We are still waiting to see what kind of changes they have made in the new policy," Khodaidad said. "If the strategy is said in accord with Afghan culture and tradition, the such changes would have no real effect."

Antonio Maria Costa, the head of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, praised the shift, calling eradication efforts "a sad joke"—and because so many Afghan security forces had been killed in the efforts, though only "about 2 percent of the volume" had been eradicated, Reuters said.

Last week, in remarks to Congress, Holbrooke said that drugs were "no important, but not the primary source of funding" for the Taliban. "They get a lot more money out of the Gulf, according to our intelligence sources," he added. NYT

Nebraska court rules for mother sent home

WASHINGTON—THE NEBRASKA Supreme Court has ruled that the state acted improperly when it terminated a Guatemalan woman's rights to her two American-born children after she was detained on charges of falsely identifying herself to a police officer and then deported.

The woman, Dinora Lara, had immigrated to Grand Island, Neb., in 2000 and was working in a local meat-processing plant a year later when social service workers, acting on a tip, went to her house with a police officer to check on whether she was properly tending to her severely ill daughter. Frightened that she would be arrested on immigration charges, Lara told the officer she was a baby sitter.

She was arrested that day after the police discovered the baby, her daughter, Angelina, 1 at the time, and her son, Daniel, who was 7, were placed with protective services.

At that point, the state Supreme Court said in a ruling issued on Friday, Lara "potential rights under state juvenile law "nullified under the assertion imposed on her by federal immigration law." Lara was deported without being given an opportunity to appeal in state court for custody of her children.

The court also said that a parent's custody of their children is perhaps the "oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by the United States Supreme Court."

The burden falls on the state, the court said, to make sure that parents facing immigration charges receive the legal representation and guidance they need to protect their rights to their children...even in cases where the parent has been deported.

The state did not prove Lara was unfit, the court found. Instead, it said the record showed that the state made no effort to reunify the family, largely because social service workers "thought the children would be better off staying in the United States." State officials would not comment on the ruling.

It has been four years since Lara's children were taken away. She last saw them in February 2005, when she came to the United States to visit relatives. Lara said she never gave up hope she would get her children back, and that she could not wait to have them join her in Guatemala. NYT

A REVAMP OF THE ISLAMIC ABAYA

A model presents a creation of abaya— the traditional long black Islamic wrap garment— by international designers on June 25 in Paris. Unveiled the same week that French President Nicolas Sarkozy unleashed a storm across the Arab world for criticizing the burka—or face veil—as a sign of just-completed jazzed-up designer abayas is to be offered to the Saudi royal family. Saks Fifth Avenue (SaudiArabia) plans to have by September a selection of abayas at the boutiques for between 1,000 and 1,800 euros.

AFP

Europe leaders mark 20th year of fall of Iron Curtain

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY—EUROPEAN leaders marked the 20th anniversary of the symbolic fall of the Iron Curtain, often described as the first crack in the Berlin Wall and one of the key episodes leading to the end of communism in Eastern Europe, in Budapest on Saturday.

The presidents of Germany, Austria, Finland, Slovenia and Switzerland, as well as high-ranking officials from Poland, Britain and more than 30 other countries participated in a commemorative session in the Hungarian parliament and a gala event at the Hungarian State Opera House.

On June 27, 1989, the then-foreign ministers of Hungary, Gyula Horn, and Austria, Alois Mock, cut through some barbed wire on the border between the two countries, putting a symbolic end to a physical and psychological boundary of which by then there was little left.

"Looking at the entire chain of events, one rightfully and deservingly mentions June 27 as the day in which the partitioning of Europe came to an end," Hungarian President László Sólyom said at the start of the special session in parliament. "We have every reason to celebrate together. The cut bathed with blood was in fact torn apart without a fight. Indeed the whole world understand what was happening here in the center of Europe."

Hungary had begun in displacements the Iron Curtain nearly two months earlier, on May 2, 1989—partly because border guards said it was in such poor condition that even small animals were setting off false alarms along the electrified fence.

With most of it already gone, officials had trouble finding even a small section of the Iron Curtain for Horn and Mock's staged photo opportunity with wire cutters.

"What happened at the end of June was a mere symbolic gesture ... but the border continued to be strictly controlled," Swiss Hungarian journalist and historian Andreas Oplatka said on state radio.

Still, pictures of the event were published around the world and inspired tens of thousands of East Germans to leave their country, find temporary refuge in Hungary, Poland or Czechoslovakia and wait for an opportunity to travel to West Germany.

By the end of the summer, thousands of East German "tourists" were living in tents on the grounds of the West German Embassy in Budapest and in several other locations around the city, including church yards and the site of a communist youth camp.

After allowing some of the "Ossies" to leave for West Germany via Austria in August and then some more in the weeks later, Hungary finally decided to let all East Germans out from Sept. 11, 1989.

Within two months, on Nov. 9, the Berlin Wall fell and Germany's reunification was formalized in October 1990. AP

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US, Russia differ over cyber attacks

THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA ARE locked in a fundamental dispute over how to counter the growing threat of cyberwar attacks that could wreak havoc on computer systems and the Internet.

Both nations agree that cyberspace is an emerging battleground. The two sides are expected to address the subject when President Barack Obama visits Russia next week and at the General Assembly of the United Nations in November, according to a senior State Department official.

But there the agreement ends.

Russia favors an international treaty along the lines of those negotiated for chemical weapons and has pushed for that approach as a series of meetings this year and its public statements by a high-ranking official.

The United States argues that a treaty is unnecessary. It instead advocates improved cooperation among international law-enforcement groups. If these groups cooperate to make cyberspace more secure against criminal intentions, they work will also make cyberspace more secure against military campaigns, Americans officials say.

"We really believe it's defense, defense, defense," said the State Department official, who asked not to be identified because authorization had not been given to speak on the record. "They seem to emphasize offense. We would to be able to criminalize those horrible 50,000 attacks we were getting a day."

The United States is trying to improve cybersecurity by building relationships among international law-enforcement agencies. State Department officials hold out as a model the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, which took effect in 2004 and has been signed by 22 nations, including the United States but not Russia or China. But Russia objects that the European convention on cybercrime allows the police to open an investigation of suspected cyber crime originating in another country without first informing local authorities, infringing on traditional ideas of sovereignty.

The United States and China have met with high-level talks on cyberwar issues, specialists say. But there is some evidence that the Chinese are being courted by Russia for support of an arms-control treaty for cyberspace.

Whether the American or Russian approach prevails, arms control experts said, major governments are reaching a point of no return in handling off a cyberwar arms race. NYT

Was US governor's tryst legal?

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA—SOUTH Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford admits he used bad judgment when he secretly visited his mistress during a state-funded trip to Argentina last year. But did he break the law?

He really encountered for a criminal probe of the trade mission, a spokesperson for the state's law enforcement division said. It doesn't appear Sanford did anything illegal.

Spokesperson Jennifer Timmons said the information provided so far indicates Sanford met his mistress on private time during a single meeting in Buenos Aires.

"Perhaps his judgment was clouded, but he did not have criminal intent," Timmons said on Saturday. "The situation would be completely different if he'd asked [the] Commerce [Department] to set up the trip to Argentina with the sole intent to set up an extramarital affair."

After going missing for days, the married father of four admitted on Wednesday he'd been back in Argentina to see a woman with whom he has been having a yearlong affair. His staff had said he was hiking the Appalachian Trail.

In a tearful, rambling press conference, the two-term Republican asked for forgiveness and explained that a long friendship with the woman had blossomed into romance a year ago, around the time of the trade mission, when he was key in Buenos Aires.

On Thursday, Sanford agreed to reimburse the state for part of the more than $40,000 tab. Exactly how much he needs to pay back has not yet been determined, a spokesperson said. Joel Sawyer said on Saturday.

The state Commerce Department says the trip itinerary originally included only Brazil, but the governor later asked for economic development meetings in Argentina.

State Democratic Party Chair Dawkins called on Saturday for legislative leaders to set up a bipartisan committee to investigate and rebuked law enforcement, particularly the attorney general, for not launching a probe. AP

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quirez

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Iran opposition rejects partial recount

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TEHRAN—IRAN'S OPPOSITION leaders rejected on Sunday a panel set up to hold a partial recount in the disputed presidential vote as political deadlock continued to grip the Islamic republic.

Mir Hossein Mousavi, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's strongest rival in the June 12 vote, is insisting on a new vote while another defeated candidate, Mehdi Karroubi, is demanding an independent panel to probe irregularities.

Their defiance flies in the face of the regime's top political arbitration body, the Expediency Council, which has urged all candidates to cooperate with the panel set up by the electoral watchdog the Guardians Council.

But the streets of Tehran remained quiet on Sunday, with the authorities warning they would suppress any further protests over the vote that triggered the worst unrest since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The international community continues to voice alarm the violent crackdown on the opposition in the election aftermath, but Iran has hit back, accusing Western nations particularly the United States and Britain of meddling.

Facing its biggest threat in 30 years, the Islamic regime has sought to quell the disquiet over the election results by ordering a partial recount.

The Guardians Council, an unelected body of 12 jurists and clerics, said on Friday it would examine a sample of ballots in four provincial figures and candidate representatives to recount 10 percent of the ballots and draw up a report on the vote.

Not enough

But Rezaeii, a reformist former parliamentarian who came a distant fourth in June 12, said in a letter to the Guardians Council that a partial recount was "not enough."

He called for an independent panel to probe "all aspects of the election," in the letter published in his newspaper Emtaad Melli.

Mousavi rejected the panel outright on Saturday, while the other defeated candidate, Mohsen Rezai, has agreed to be part of the panel if Mousavi and Karroubi also agree to nominate representatives to the body.

But Mousavi, who has spearheaded the massive public opposition to the vote, has demanded a recount, refusing to be cowed by a government crackdown by the authorities against his supporters and even an advertising against him.

"Limiting this probe into complaints about electoral irregularities to recounting 10 percent of the ballot boxes cannot satisfy people's final and conclusive public opinion about the results," he said on his campaign website.

"I insist again on cancelling the election (results) as the most suitable way out of the problem," he said.

'Cleanest' election

Mousavi, who was prime minister in the post-revolution years, won just 34 percent of the vote against 63 percent for Ahmadinejad, a gap of 11 million votes, according to official results.

Despite ordering a partial recount, the Guardians Council said on "major irregularities" have so far been found and the election was the "cleanest we have had."

At least 17 people have been killed in clashes with security forces, according to state media. However, foreign media are banned from the streets under new restrictions imposed in the wake of the election.

The authorities have also rounded up scores of reformist leaders, journalists and political activists, many of them Mousavi supporters, while a party office has been raided and his newspaper shut down.

But the editor of a Mousavi campaign newspaper warned regime hits on Saturday accusing him of "causing" the death of those are by bringing them out on to the streets.

Ahmadinejad himself unleashed a new tirade against US President Barack Obama on Saturday saying: "He who spoke of reforms and changes, why did he interfere and comment in a way that disregards our constitutional structure?"

On Friday, Obama said Iran's "old regime" crackdown on demonstrators would "in no larger for direct talks with the Islamic republic after three decades of strained ties. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Ana through; teen qualifier ousts Jelena /A34

SPORTS

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SUN CELLULAR

Kings reach finals

Ginebra uses rain of triples to wash out Rain or Shine

By Cedelf P. Topas

WITH THE OFFENSE STALLED AND THE SHOT CLOCK WINDING DOWN EARLY IN the fourth period, Ginebra import David Noel dribbled twice and vaulted for a jumper from beyond the arc. Swish.

North triple was just one of 16 Ginebra used last night in repelling several Rain or Shine spurts on the way to a series-clinching 106-100 victory that gave the reigning champion Gin Kings a return trip to the finals in the PBA Montible Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We're just happy we used work but paid off," coach Glenn Capacio said. Jong Uichico after the Gin Kings won three straight games to close out the series, 4-1. "Rain or Shine played us a notch higher in terms of intensity and energy. It was 4-2, this series was close."

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ILLAM books baseball World Series ticket via big rally

By Cedelf P. Tapas

THE TEAM WITH A PENCHANT FOR comebacks pulled off its biggest one yet yesterday.

International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) rallied from a three-run deficit in the final inning to hammer out a dramatic 6-5 victory over Guam in Jakarta to successfully defend its Asia-Pacific title and book a return trip to the Senior League World Series in Bangor, Maine.

The victory came on the heels of the ILLAM Seniors' 2-1 semifinal triumph over Saipan, where they also made their move in the final inning.

Mandaluyong and Tanauan lost their respective knockout matches in the Junior League and Big League divisions late Saturday, leaving ILLAM to carry the fight for the country.

And ILLAM, powered by remnants of the team that won first runner-up honors in the Junior League World Series two years ago, did not disappoint.

Mike Habana hit two doubles that led to four runs, while Charlie Camagat went 3-for-4 as ILLAM avenged its 5-7 defeat to Guam in the elimination round.

ILLAM prevailed with an out to spare in the bottom of the seventh, as Habana smashed a two-run double to score Vevven Ching and Camagat, who earlier singled to send a home-bound Habana.

Mike Gaoiran scored three runs at the top of the ninth to seize ahead, 5-2, Adrian Bernardo set the tone for the final inning rally with a single that brought home Jose Miguel San Juan.

Habana's double in the first inning also scored Camagat and lead-off hitter Adrian Mercurio in the fast-breaking.

Little League Philippines president Jolly Gomez lauded the performance of the team, noting that ILLAM pulled off the feat "with the competition in the region getting much stiffer."

The ILLAM honors become the fourth Philippine team that will see action in the baseball and softball World Series tournaments in the United States.

THE HEFTY runners Asia Pacific Senior League champions celebrate after the championship match.

ILLAM also clinched a berth in the Junior League softball World Series in Kirkland, Washington, while the Senior League squad will debut in Juneau, Delaware, after toiling the no-for-two runners in Guam early this month.

Brad Pewtaan will represent the country in the Big League tournament in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Guest squads debut today

EAC battles Arellano, St. Benilde tests AUF; Cubs rout Robins by 80

By Cedelf P. Tapas

GUEST SQUADS ARELLANO UNIVERSITY, Emilio Aguinaldo College and Manuel L. Quezon University Foundation to debut with modest expectations in the 85th NCAA men's basketball tournament today at the FilOil Flying V arena in San Juan.

The Arellano Chiefs and JRC Generals, flown fees in the NCBAA and UCAA, take their rivalry to the university's oldest evening tournament when they collide at 4 p.m.

"We are very familiar with the way Arellano plays," said JRC coach Nonnie Ilo, who will rely on brothers Russel and Lowell Yaya and playmaker Angel Mendoza. "But playing in the NCAA is going to be very different."

The AUF Great Danes, who are running all the way from Batangas, battle the St. Benilde Blazers in the first game at 2 p.m.

AUF coach Bobby Garcia downplayed concerns over the long travel that could take a toll on his players.

"We got used to it when we played in the Cup last season," said Garcia.

The Blazers are hoping to improve on their sixth-place finish last season with veterans Jeff Mendoza, Jeoffrey Mendoza, Angelo Mendoza and Jacob Mandapat returning to the fold.

"Our strength is our relegation," said Blazers' first-year coach Richard del Rosario. "I think we have very good relegation who can match up well with other teams."

In junior's play, the San Beda Red Cubs followed up the resounding opening-day win of their senior counterparts by crushing the Staypa Red Robins, 122-42, yesterday in the San Juan Gym.

Al Gordoncillo collected 13 points, 14 rebounds, three assists and three steals, while Adrian Alamaja and Arther dela Cruz contributed 17 points each for the Red Cubs, who are hoping to give long-time coach a fitting sendoff this season.

Gordoncillo, who has steered the school to 15 of its 16 high school crowns since taking over the coaching chores in 1992, said he will quit as coach of the juniors team this season and focus on his duties as athletic director of the school.

Meanwhile, the Letran Spiders overwhelmed the Jose Rizal Light Bombers, 93-77, behind Jayston Tampus' 32 points and Glenn Rhyan Rontos's 26-point and 20-boards.

ELVIN Jake Pascual (No. 5) of San Beda tries to muscle his possession of the ball against Erwin Comsip of Mapua. The Red Lions flogged the Cardinals, 83-32, a rout hastened by San Beda's Red Cube against Mapua's Red Robins yesterday.

That old college cheer

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

WITH THE start of the NCAA last Saturday, the collegiate athletic seasons to open to and with other leagues set to open as well.

There will be the endless analyses about chances and contenders and which schools have recruited the best new talents. Players graduate or end their stints with schools and player movement from one school is hyped by residency. Restrictions to playing years add spice to the pre-tournament speculations.

The constant in this state of flux is school spirit, manifested largely by the organized cheering.

Having done a bit of cheerleading in my youth, it's a thrill to see and hear the cheers and pride of my school and see it still having young men and women, together with those of other schools as well. Here are a couple of favorites through the years.

In the NCAA, Jose Rizal's "Go Jose Beda Fight!" is a solid battle cry perfect for any game situation. The Indian dance and yell at halftime is a classic that has been performed by many through the years.

"Purlac League" was arguably the one to get it going everything about the school's spirit in one strong phrase.

JRU's "Hinga" is a crowd charmer whose choreography has hardly changed and has seen its almost cheerleaders slide in seamlessly like when they performed in last year's finals.

In the UAAP, UST's "Go UST!" has been a source favorite because of the simplicity of its execution but also because of its ferocity when the Golden Gallery schoops it up. Even students of rival schools find it hard to resist and can cheer and dance it as well.

UP's halftime performances are a must-see. Each one is a well-prepared production production with the discipline of their synchronized movements leaving audiences craving for more. The State U's Filipino cheers are also reminiscent as rival schools try to emulate the words.

La Salle's "Paterbilanx" builds slowly with chants and graceful gestures that allow floor movement and builds into a rousing pulsating finish.

"One Big Fight!" of Ateneo's Blue Babble Battalion is an all-purpose cheer for free throws, rallies and end game lengths.

FEU's "Let's Go Tamaraws, let's go!" is a delightful chant dished out by spirited rooters while cheerleaders do choreographic pep with their pompoms in their hands.

The question about cheering is if there is room at all for any new cheers. The old ones are nostalgic and unifying and can be easily passed on from one era to the next.

Composing new ones is challenging with only so many "da, bums, ties" and "go-fight" lines you can use. Teaching them and making them part of the game day experience is also problematic. New cheers have to be first accepted by the school community and may have to be taught in PE classes or done repeatedly in games.

The old cheers have stood the test of time and have become so ingrained that generations that come to the games today can do them like they did when they were young.

Whether those are old cheers or new ones, the essential thing is for communities to come together and be one in the stands for their teams. Ask any one who has played in a school league with hundreds of schoolmates and friends cheering. They don't hear the yells and do respond to the plays to go and fight or get that ball.

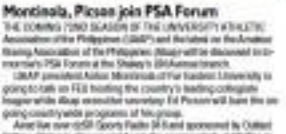
SPORTSWATCH

Montinola, Picsoe join PSA Forum

THE CORPUS TIMO SEASON OF THE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and the Philippine Sharing Association of the Philippines (Sharp) will be discussed to-morrow's PSA Forum at the Shakey's EDSA-Ayala branch.

UAAP president Atoke Montinola of Far Eastern University is going to talk on FEU hosting the country's leading collegiate league while Sharp executive secretary Ed Picsoe will have the ongoing country-wide programs of his group.

Anne Sue now 6th Sports Radio 34 Kard sponsored by Outlast Battery, Shakey's, Pepsi and Asahi the session starts at 10:30 a.m.



SHUTTLE CHAMPS Members of Team Tanauan, led by team captain Bonn Dino (6th) from left) receive their prizes from Frederick Go (third from right), president of Robinsons Land Corp., and host Vi Mike Gil (right), after finishing second in the PDS Cup Invitational Badminton Championships at the Tanza courts in Mandaluyong recently. They are Cesar Ang Sr. Mark Reese, Paulo Sunga, Ruiner Tiam-Lee, Lino Encarnacion, Ryan Conde and Elmar Canaling.

3 champs in SJC 'Rambulan'

THREE OUT OF SIX PARTICIPANTS CLAIMED THE CROWN DURING San Juan Coliseum's "2M Rambulan 6-rock derby" Saturday night at San Juan Coliseum. Newcomer Roger Lee, Popoy Tanaz and derby host Rodolfo Pineda and Fonny Castro rallied to wins each to emerge as co-champions. Meanwhile, action at SJC resumes on July 1 as the "Governor's Cup 5-rock derby."

WTJ cockfest at Makati Coliseum

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MAKATI COLISEUM AS THE "WTJ SPECIAL 3-rock derby" unfurls today. Promoters Lito Ordoza, Rudy Baldo and Ebbing Cruz said the "open guaranteed prize" format will be adopted. Meanwhile, preparations are also under way for the "PCAP Grand Championship Derby" on July 5. The 2009 PCAP Cocker of the Year will be declared after the derby.

Manicad voted NCAA press president

DAILY TRIBUNE'S JULIUS MANICAD was elected president of the NCAA Press Corps for Season 85 Saturday at the Rizalite Coliseum.

Also elected by acclamation were Rey Atencio of Manila Standard as first vice president, Mark Escudero of Abante as second vice president, Cedelf Tapas of Inquirer as secretary general, Francis Santiago of Manila Bulletin as treasurer, Marvin Antiola of Bulgar as auditor and Theodore Arnaldo of Journal Group as PRO.

Philippine Star's Joey Villar was also named as chair of the group composed of reporters from the country's leading broadsheets and tabloids covering the eleven collegiate leagues.

SBP's Eala: We need Japeth

By Jasmine W. Payo

A LENGTHY STINT IN THE Philippine team may be ahead for the much sought after Japeth Aguilar.

Surprising Basketball Association executive director Sonia Eala said that as soon as Aguilar completes the term, Letran 6-footer is expected to lend the national team's young core.

"At this point I will categorically say that we need Japeth Aguilar in the national team," said Eala.

"I've seen how he plays and I don't think there's a player as young as he is who can help the national team for a long, long time in that position. Certainly we are hoping that he will see that playing for the national team remains the biggest honor for any basketball player."

Aguilar will practice with the Powerade JUP squad maintained by Yeng Guiao starting today at the FilOil Flying V arena in San Juan.

The 22-year-old product of UN NCAA Division 1 school Western Kentucky University similarly has an outstanding offer from the former Ginebra national developmental team coached by Serbian Rajko Toroman.

And aside from keeping his NBA hopes up

AGUILAR

following a recent stint at the National Basketball Association League camp in Los Angeles, Aguilar has also been flirting with the PBA Rookie Draft set on Aug. 2.

"I'm still weighing my options," said Aguilar, who arrived close to midnight last Thursday. "But my first priority for now is to help coach Yeng's national team."

"Making pillow [Who're we fooling him]," said Eala.

"If he decides to join the Smart Gilas team, it doesn't mean he cannot play for the Powerade team. As far as we're concerned, we're in no rush at our ends anyway. UBP wrapped both their Powerade and Smart Gilas teams and whoever needs a player [You have them, we'll gladly lend them to the team]."

"We're just hoping that we can have the best possible team so that we'll have a fighting chance in the Olympics," added Eala.

Guiao's all-pro squad is preparing for the Asian Cup to be played next month and the more important 25th Fiba Asia men's championship in Tianjin, China, in August.

The top three finishers in the Yeng Guiao-led squad earn berths in the 2010 World Championships in Turkey.

Roach wants to silence Pacquiao's critics

By Dennis Principe, Correspondent

IN PUSHING FOR A SHOWDOWN WITH Miguel Cotto, American trainer Freddie Roach apparently wants to silence critics of the one-sided win scored by Manny Pacquiao over Oscar De La Hoya.

Interviewed by the bosses, Roach said he intends his prized ward to battle a bigger, more world multi-weight champion who is at his prime and is not past the age of 30.

"When we fought Oscar before the fight they said he's going to kill Manny and then afterwards they say he was old. So after we beat Cotto what are they going to say?" said Roach during an interview telephone interview from his Wild Card Gym. "So we're going to beat another champion at that weight and that will be another milestone for Manny Pacquiao, another world title for the pound for pound king."

The age factor is probably one of the reasons why Roach is seemingly determined in getting another world welterweight champion than Manny or Pacquiao's next opponent.

Modesty D. Boldo the World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight crown in knocking out Cotto's lone conqueror Antonio Margarito in the ninth round last January at the Staples Center.

The 28-year-old Cotto (34-1, 27 KOs), who holds a 12-round decision win over Mosley (46-5, 39 KOs), is the current World Boxing Organization (WBO) title holder. Cotto recently defended his crown with a close decision win over tough Ghanaian Joshua Clottey in New York.

"When we fought Oscar at 147 he was not the world champion. Cotto's a world champion at 147 so he will definitely be our toughest fight as close," said Roach. "Shane Mosley is Cotto's other fight but after fighting Shane's a little bit faster than Cotto. But either guy is fine."

JAYJAY Helterbrand (left) of Ginebra and teammate Ball Reavis locate for the rebound against Mark Isip of Rain or Shine. ALEXIS MEDALLADA

Kings reach Fiesta finals

From page A13

But on this night, though.

The Gin Kings took their cue from Rain or Shine import Jon Lewis out of the offensive equation and had their three-man frontcourt of Reavis, Helterbrand and Asi Taulava pound the ball inside.

After TY Tang opened the game with a triple, Jaypee Helterbrand, David Noel and Dave Arnaiz responded with three straight threes each for a 13-3 spread.

Gabe Norwood spearheaded an 8-0 blast to cut a 51-36 lead to five, but Helterbrand answered with a triple to restore order for the Gin Kings.

And just when it looked like the Elasto Painters finally grabbed the momentum early in the fourth, Noel hit that timely triple that was followed by conversions from Cyrus Baguio, Stanley Salvacion and Helterbrand, who surmised the all-important, 81-67, with 4:03 remaining.

Noel and Helterbrand tallied 16 points and 10 rebounds, Arnaiz finished with 17 points and sparked several runs with a game-high six steals.

The burly Lewis was forced to give the ball up as he found the lane clogged by the Gin Kings every time he touched the ball. He scored his first field goal—a three-handed putback—with 4:39 left and finished with just six points on 2-of-6 shooting in 43 minutes. He also accounted for five of Rain or Shine's 20 turnovers.

Tang answered a career-high 24 points, including three trays, while Norwood shot just four points in the second half, after scoring 18 in the first two quarters.

With the victory, Hodfra, which received an 11th championship appearance, became the first defending champion to return to the finals since Talk N' Text pulled off the feat in the 2004-2005 Philippine Cup.

Yeo later said they are in for a tougher time in the finals, where they will meet either San Miguel and Burger King.

"It doesn't stop here. Against these two teams, you really have to go all out in every game," said Urbiztondo, who will be coaching in his 12th finals.

The scores:

Hotlines

GINEBRA (68)—Isit 21 Reid 10 Arnaiz 9 Helterbrand 7 Noel 7 Salvacion 6 Mallari 5 Baguio 3 Lassiter 2 Asi 1 Wilson 0.

RAIN OR SHINE (51)—Tang 24 Norwood 12 Araneta 6 Baguio 4 Lassiter 3 Asi 1 Wilson 0.

Quarters: 15-29, 40-51, 51-71, 68-81

Bulls trounce Sharks, near Baseball RP title

BONIFACIO GAME THROUGH WITH A big offensive blitz in the fifth inning to smother Manila, 13-4, yesterday in the opener of their best-of-three showdown for Baseball Philippines Series V crown at the Rizal Baseball Stadium.

The Bulls peppered Manila reliever Mark Natividad with a four-spot of hits in the fifth, resulting in seven runs as they shattered a 3-all count to grab the runaway victory and move within a win from wrapping up their second championship.

Alfonso Egula registered a game-high six runs batted in (RBIs), including a two-run double that sparked the fifth-inning splurge.

"The plan was to beat Manila through pitching and hitting," said Batangas assistant team manager Emerson Bautista, who took over for Randy Diaz, who is in Jakarta coaching the Philippine team in the Asia-Little League qualifier.

Egula's RBI single in the first frame gave the early lie the Bulls but the Sharks connected on three runs in the third behind a two-run single by Dini Bowman-Rivera.

The Bulls drew level with two runs at the bottom of the third then broke free in the fifth with Ronnie Asuncion's RBI single that scored Carlo Bautista.

Egula then struck with a down-the-line shot to left field to score Apura and Asuncion. They went on to score seven runs to that inning, all off Natividad, as the Bulls led, 12-3.

Natividad hit a single in the eighth but is hardly propped up the Bisons.

HE'S BACK Los Angeles Dodgers left fielder Manny Ramirez does the pregame workout before his rehabilitation stint with the Class-A California League Inland Empire 66ers baseball team. Ramirez is returning from a 50-game drug-related suspension.

Cojuangco gets IOC—but not FEI—backing

By Jane Navarro

OLYMPIC CHIEF JOSE "PEPING" COJUANGco Jr. has gained the support he badly needed from the International Olympic Committee but not in his own sport.

The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) thumbed down Cojuangco's request to reconsider its decision to grant the group of Rep. Cielito Conchita (Bryan) Investiture in equestrian.

Cojuangco went to the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland last week and met with FEI secretary general Alexander Hevia in a meeting arranged by IOC National Olympic Committee (NOC) relations director Pere Miro.

Cojuangco said Miro was unaware of the omission of the correspondence they had sent to the FEI that challenged the leadership claim of Concordista in the Equestrian Association of the Philippines.

"It appeared that he [Miro] handed down a decision without giving importance to the letters that we sent to him," Cojuangco explained.

Cojuangco said Hilton Cojuangco-Resonski, Cojuangco's daughter and secretary general in the EAP, aired their side by providing a 45-minute explanation challenging Concordista's position.

Just the same, the POC position said Mr. Miro refused to listen to his explanation and stood firm on the FEI's support on Concordista.

"His [Miro] decision still stands, but he promised to help us resolve the conflict," said Cojuangco.

"If they still insist not on it, I still be forced to go to the FEI sports tribunal to mediate our dispute," he added.

Prior to his meeting with Miro, Cojuangco sat down with IOC president Jacques Rogge and won assurance of the IOC's backing on the problems besetting the POC.

"Sometimes, you have to bend a little bit to resolve these conflicts," Cojuangco quoted Rogge as saying.

Equestrian riders getting ready for the show

EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines president Percy-Boy Noy, Ms. Carmen Concordista is embarking on a four-year training, competition and horse management program aimed at uplifting the sport.

"The 30-year-old Concordista, herself a veteran rider, has enough credentials for the task that will have more than enough for the ultimate program. She has also served as long time chef d'Equipe (team manager) of multi-sanctioned national teams to international events like the SEA Games, Asian Horse Jumping Championships and Asian Games.

"Now about the World Cup, the Olympics and other Olympic-level equestrian competitions? I asked her during an exclusive interview recently.

"We are getting closer to that," said Concordista.

She said: "The Philippines has been represented three times at the Olympic Games, first in 1952 in Helsinki and then in 1996 in Atlanta—both by Dennis Gutierrez—and in 2000 in Sydney by Toni Lorenz, who was also the first Filipino rider to qualify and compete in the World Equestrian Games in 2002. In 1999, Lorenz, representing Southeast Asia, also took part in the World Cup Finals in Gothenburg, Sweden.

"But since then, we have not been able to send our top riders to these world's most prestigious events," lamented Concordista. "Still, we would like to compete again because we know we have the capability, skills and talent. All we need to do is to give our athletes the support that they need and deserve."

The equestrian chief said they have prepared a program that includes training Filipino riders with top European coaches, namely Olympic medalist Sonny ter Pandora and world renowned trainer Ian Burgas.

Earlier, the equestrian association had secured the services of Argentinian show jumping star Sebastian Felipe Munoz and Peruvian dressage champion Frank Ferrand, who is tasked with reviving the dressage discipline which has been long neglected in the country.

Dressage, one of three Olympic horse events (the other two are show jumping and endurance), holds great potential for success for our riders, according to the lady riders.

Also being tapped is Europe-based veterinarian Eduardo Soto. He is the veterinarian of World Cup and Olympic champion Rodrigo Pessoa of Brazil and of former Athens Olympian Jonathan Borromeo, who took over for Randy Diaz, who is in Jakarta coaching the Philippine team in the Asia-Little League qualifier.

Egula's RBI single in the first frame gave the early lie the Bulls but the Sharks connected on three runs in the third behind a two-run single by Dini Bowman-Rivera.

The Bulls drew level with two runs at the bottom of the third then broke free in the fifth with Ronnie Asuncion's RBI single that scored Carlo Bautista.

Egula then struck with a down-the-line shot to left field to score Apura and Asuncion. They went on to score seven runs to that inning, all off Natividad, as the Bulls led, 12-3.

Natividad hit a single in the eighth but is hardly propped up the Bisons.

CLEAN LIVING

Manuelo B. Diego

TRIVIA

Question: Name the two Barangay Ginebra players who have ex-PBA cagers as fathers.

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Asian Youth games get going in Singapore

SINGAPORE—SOME 1,800 YOUNG ATHletes from 45 countries take center stage today when the first Asian Youth Games officially unfurls at the Singapore Indoor stadium here.

Local organizers promised a spectacular rite filled with fireworks and cultural presentations, including the "Garden in the City" performance by 400 students, for the inaugural staging of this nine-day multi-event competition. Opening ceremonies start at 7 p.m.

The Philippines is composed of 38 athletes. But 18 baseball players already flew back to the country yesterday after dominating its friendly game (12-2) with host Singapore at the Jalan Besar Stadium Saturday afternoon.

The RP hoopers were quarantined for seven days after a 24-year-old tennis player tested positive for influenza A(H1N1) and were withdrawn from the competition along with Hong Kong, which registered three positive cases of the new virus.

RP Chef de Mission Col. Ernie Rimas is also optimistic of the young Filipinos are going to deliver.

"Our athletes are in high spirits and they are eating to conquer," said Rimas, also the president of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines.

The Filipinos, whose participation are bankrolled by the Philippine Sports Commission, are competing in athletics, aquatics, basketball 3-on-3, beach volleyball, bowling, shooting and table tennis.

SPORTS

Ana through; teen qualifier ousts Jelena

ANA Ivanovic reaches for a shot from Samantha Stosur.

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—THE SWING for pumps returned as former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic continued her roll at Wimbledon, which could be perilous for first-time champion Venus Williams.

Serbian Ivanovic advanced to the fourth round by beating Australian teenqualifier Stosur, 7-5, 6-2, on Saturday. Up next is a showdown against Williams on Monday.

Injuries cost Ivanovic lots a slump-after she won the 2008 French Open. She's without a title this year and crashed early (3rd). But she scored two match points in her first-round win over Lucie Hradecka, and she has won six in a row.

"To come back and win another couple of matches and play better each match, it definitely gives me confidence," Ivanovic said.

"My game is probably even better than it was (at the 2008 French)," said Ivanovic, 21. "I feel also much more experienced. I went through a lot even past year, being No. 1, having some disappointing losses and some tough times. That made me stronger."

While Ivanovic seems rejuvenated, another former No. 1 from Serbia, Jelena Jankovic, continues to struggle. In the world's biggest upset, the last fourseeded to 17-year-old American qualifier Melanie Oudin, 6-7 (8), 7-5, 6-3.

The ninth-seeded Jankovic struggled with the heat on a sunny afternoon, and took a 12-minute break after the first set. She was plagued by erratic groundstrokes, while Oudin played with poise to the elevating stages, taking the final three games.

Another upset was recorded 19-year-old Sabine Lisicki of Germany knocking out Russian No. 3 Svetlana Kuznetsova, the French Open champion, 6-2, 7-5.

"Before I came into the Wimbledon championships, I hadn't won, actually a match on grass," Lisicki said. "I just can't believe I'm in the fourth round."

No. 3-seeded Andy Murray, seeking to become the first British man to win Wimbledon since 1936, defeated Nicolas Devilder of Bolivia, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. Unseeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt, the 2002 champion, reached the fourth round by the ninth year in a row by beating Germany's Philipp Petzschner, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

No. 9-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of the 20-year-old Dane, also advanced. Top-seeded Dinara Safina of Russia, enjoying her best Wimbledon, beat Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens 7-5, 6-0.

The match against Williams will test Ivanovic's progress. American Williams, who advanced by defeating Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, 6-0, 6-4, is trying to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1993-95 to win three Wimbledon titles in a row.

A five drops of rain fell late in the afternoon, but there was no lengthy delay and by a sixth consecutive day, the new retractable roof on Center Court wasn't needed. AP

ALCANTARA

Austrian knocks out Alcantara

By Jeannine N. Paez

FILIPINO TENNIS SENSATION PENNY Cassy Alcantara bowed out in the first round of Wimbledon following a 6-4, 6-4, 3-6 loss against Austria's Melanie Oudin(18) in the boys' singles event on Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Alcantara, seeded No. 27 in the junior world rankings, will now focus on his bid for a second Grand Slam in his pet event, the boys' doubles, five months after his historic win in the Australian Open.

Alcantara and Hosokawa, both 17 years old, posted a 7-5 winning percentage on first serves, but the 168th-ranked Austrian made 52 percent against the Filipino's 44 in second serves, according to results posted at the official Wimbledon website.

Alcantara rose to prominence as the first Filipino to win a Grand Slam event after pairing with Taiwanese Cheng Peng-hsien for the boys doubles title at the Australian Open last January.

Afterwards, already with two doubles titles this year, and which reached the second round of the recent French Open, but the pair had another chance at glory after it is the 40th-seeded tandem of Frederik Nielsen and Junior Championships in Bellahan.

WOZNIACKI

Tiger's niece falters in pro debut

SOCKETT, NEW YORK—CHEYENNE WOODS, THE niece of Tiger Woods, missed the cut Saturday in her professional golf debut, shooting a 2-over 74 in the second round of the rain-disrupted Wegmans LPGA.

Woods and 70 other players completed their second rounds in the lowly Locust Hill course in suburban Rochester on Saturday morning after play was interrupted by thunderstorms for nearly five hours Friday.

The 20-year-old Woods finished at 5-over 149—four strokes above the cut line.

"I would have made a couple more birdies, so not as many bogeys, but I'm happy," said Woods, who competed on a sponsor exemption. "There were years at Mike Sweet and (her boyfriend) I'll be back out here."

Morgan Pressel pitched up two birdies to finish second at 10 under, one behind Jiyai Shin. Stacy Lewis was third at 9-under, one better than Kristy McPherson, Michelle Wie, Mindy Kim and Germany's Sandra Gal, the first-round leader, were tied at 7-under.

Defending champion Inbee Park (-3) could only manage a 71 and finished out within a 7-over total.

Japanese teen qualifies for British Open

In Tokyo, 17-year-old Japanese Ayo Ishikawa qualified for the British Open on Sunday with a solo at the Hilltop Open, shooting a final-round 71 to secure a place at the July 16 to 19 event at Turnberry with his first win of 2009.

He finish at 13-under 275, three strokes ahead of New Zealand's David Smail. AP

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AWD may soon receive pension, more incentives

By Leila B. Salaverria

ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES (AWD) MAY SOON get discounts on establishments and rights of benefits including monthly pensions.

The House Committee on Appropriations has approved a bill to give more incentives to AWD, including their coaches and trainers, who are recognized and accredited by the National Paralympic Committee of the Philippines and the Philippine Sports Commission, and those who have represented the country in international competitions, according to a statement from the House of Representatives.

Those the athletes reach 80 years old, those who are laid to rest in honor would receive a lifetime monthly pension of at least P10,000. In case of team events, each member would get P15,000.

Bills authors Rep. Jose Lacson of Negros Occidental and Bicolnd Rep. Monico Puentevella are also seeking a 20 percent discount nationwide on purchases of medicines and sports equipment and from all establishments, including hotels, restaurants and theater patronizing entertainment.

SPORTSWATCH

Dixon outruns Franchitti, rules IndyCar series

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—SCOTT DIXON grabbed the lead from Target Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Dario Franchitti on a wet road midway through the Lowe's at Chevrolet and earned his 19th career IndyCar Series victory, tying the points record.

Both Chevrolet-men scraped the wall on lap 247 of 300, bringing out the last caution that secured the leaders.

Graham Rahal finished a career-best third, followed by teammates Marco and Patrick. AP

Wakefield outplays Vazquez as Red Sox blank Braves 1-0

ATLANTA—TIM WAKEFIELD PITCHED six scoreless innings to win a duel with Javier Vazquez as the Boston Red Sox blanked the Atlanta Braves 1-0 on interleague play on Saturday.

Mark Kotsay drove in the game's only run with a sixth-inning single.

Wakefield (10-3) earned a win with a pitch count of 96 on Sunday for Red Sox Opening record for the most career starts by a Red Sox pitcher at 382. AP

OOOPS! Weightlifter Georgia Ber Agnes of Italy loses control during the 58-kg snatch event at the Mediterranean Games in Pescara, Italy. The Games hold every four years has 24 nations competing. AP

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nariona

BUSINESS

Hotel Room for P785?

Gov't weighs options to cover big deficit

P110.5B in T-bills, bonds to be sold in 3rd quarter

By Ramon F. Domingo and Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AT OTHER OPTIONS TO fund a bigger budget deficit this year despite a commitment from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to help raise up to $1 billion through the issuance of samurai bonds.

At the same time, the Bureau of the Treasury announced its plan to issue some P110.5 billion worth of treasury bills and bonds in the third quarter.

With an expected budget deficit of P250 billion for 2009 and after spending P123.3 billion over the budget from January to May, the government needs to borrow an additional P102 billion.

The government was earlier expecting a deficit of only 0.9% (P92 billion), borrowings for which have already been programmed. But officials were forced to increase the deficit ceiling to P250 billion after estimates showed that tax collections could fall short of target. This was the fourth revision from the original budget deficit target of P43 billion.

According to the Treasury, it is scheduled to bid out seven batches of P8.5 billion in treasury bills—in tenors of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days—every two weeks over the next three months.

In the same period, the Treasury is set to offer six batches of P8.5 billion in treasury bonds—three of 3-year paper and three of 10-year issues.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said the government was also open to tapping more official development assistance, borrowing more from commercial sources like global bonds as well as local investors.

"The 2010 is not closing in others as these other sources," Teves said, adding that the agency would go ahead with the samurai issue if the price would be competitive.

Samurai bonds are debt instruments that are issued in Japan by foreign entities.

In the first months to May, the government increased its total borrowings by 10.7 percent as the budget

(DOT) B6

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GMA 7 takes aim at rival's narrowing ratings lead

By Dustin L. Lucas

GMA NETWORK INC., THE country's second biggest broadcast network, expects to raise the head of its rival broadcaster by year's end as it intensifies efforts to woo over television viewers in Visayas in Mindanao, according to a ranking company official.

In an interview, GMA's senior vice president for finance Felipe Yalong pointed out that the head of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. in the national ratings—the latter's favored method of measuring its performance—now stands at only 2 rating points.

"This is [about] the narrowest it's been," he said of the gap between both networks, based on AGB Nielsen Media Research's nationwide urban TV audience measurement (Numan).

As of last May, the "total day" Kantar rating of ABS-CBN stood at 18.4 rating points versus 16.6 rating points for GMA.

"This used to be at 6 or 8 [ratings] points when this started in 2004," he said.

Talking candid, however, that GMA continued to lead ratings in the "total Luzon" geographic area where the bulk of the country's spending power was concentrated.

"It's really in the 'total Philippines' where we're 2 rating points behind," he added.

Because of this, the publicly listed broadcaster then is looking at cutting its profile in Visayas and Mindanao where its rival remains to dominate the airwaves.

"Physical presence is one factor [that explains ABS-CBN's lead]," he said, adding that GMA was also having strong household because of long established viewer loyalty as its rival, which had several years' lead time in its original premises.

"They've been so used to watching ABS-CBN for so many years before GMA built original rating stations in those areas," Yalong said. "It takes time to get them to switch."

Given this situation, GMA has lined up several initiatives meant to give it an boost ratings parity with ABS-CBN on a national level within the year.

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STOCK MARKET

Cautious trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

LOCAL STOCKS RPT SEEN

Holding pat to fragile gains fueled by bargain hunting last week but remain vulnerable to a renewed sharpest plunge during economic jitters here and abroad.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index rose 3.3 percent last week to close at 2,427.44 as investors leapt opportunity to pick up stocks cheap-ened by the previous week's sharp selldown.

For the week ahead, the PSEi may find the momentum to grab another advance. But with only a few stocks to push the index and economic data coming on a drag to the market, the PSEi may find itself on top but with a weak base. There is a small room for a gain but economic worries may still persist," said AB Capital Securities analyst Mario Arjay Ramirez.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Unibank, said the recent rally experienced by the market was a mere technical rebound.

"I expect the market to try the 2,300 levels again. If broken, we could see the test of the 2,300 levels in the near term," Ravelas said. Immediate support and resistance levels were seen by Ravelas at the 2,268 and 2,500.

Boris D. Boncato

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Gov't debt payment up 3.7% in 5 mos

Needless debate on recession

NO FREE LUNCH
Cielito F. Habito

THERE IS, TO MY MIND, NEEDLESS DEBATE on whether or not the Philippine economy will go into recession this year.

I have argued in this column that the debate is largely moot, as the Philippine economy has in fact already contracted in the first quarter of this year, relative to the previous quarter, as close to -3.0 percent on an annualized basis and corrected for seasonality. And while it takes two consecutive quarters of contraction to be officially declared in recession, the second quarter is over by tomorrow and we have not seen any indications that things have been worse than before in the past three months.

We could quibble over whether growth is better reckoned year-on-year (where again advantage lies in how it conveniently avoids seasonal effects) or quarter-on-quarter with a seasonal correction. While our officially-announced growth numbers are framed on the former (hence the still positive 0.4 percent growth announced for the first quarter), some economists choose to report GDP growth on the latter basis. The US announced last week that its economy shrank 5.5 percent in the first quarter, but only 1.0 percent in annualized quarter-on-quarter approach.

Misplaced

Aside from the matter being moot, the extended debate on whether or not we have had two (three) recessions. First, there is really little difference between the numbers on both sides of the debate. The difference may not even be statistically significant, given the usual margin of error in the growth estimates.

Under their latest updated projection, the final for the year is 0.6, government economic managers believe that the economy can still grow by at least 0.8 percent that year, but given conditions currently in the data and the substantial changes the numbers often undergo upon updating and revision, that interval certainly could have just as well been -0.2 for the year.

More important, it is not the growth number per se that ultimately matters, but it is how its outcome is felt by the general population in terms of their general well-being. Was the growth, or lack of it, accompanied by an ample increase in new jobs generated in the economy? Were the new jobs of good quality—i.e., stable, secure and well-paying? The concern could be growing as 8 percent, for example, and yet produce enough new jobs to gainfully employ the new additions to the labor force. Or it may hardly grow at all, and yet somehow still generate enough jobs to reduce the unemployment rate.

Seeming contradictions

On the surface, the first quarter appears to have been a case of the latter. While the recent jobs data from the April Labor Force Survey, the first quarter slump in output would appear not to be much bad news, close to a million persons (that is equivalent to the jobs that net creation of nearly 1.5 million new jobs. This is more than the two million needed to catch up with the natural increase in the working-age population. In contrast, just the (unadjusted) preceding quarter saw much fewer (0.6 percent) output growth, and yet much less job generation (365,000 net new jobs).

In first glance, these seemingly contradictory output-employment outcomes in the past two quarters are puzzling. But they highlight the fact that there is nothing moral about the GDP growth rate, and whether it is positive or negative could be of little consequence. The nice part of the economy's well-being is whether the number of those employed and of the poor are decreasing, and people's welfare are improving in general—and experience everywhere has shown that good GDP growth by itself is no guarantee of that. Indeed, it is not unreasonable that these positive developments could transpire even in aggregate GDP falls or grow at every decliner in a mild recession.

Closer look

So if we get seemingly good employment outcomes in the first quarter in spite of a production slump, is slipping into recession something we even need to worry about? At all? Or doing this curious story with little or no worry or anxiety?

Well, not quite. The aggregate numbers may look good, but a closer look at the jobs data reveals that the news isn't all that positive. Of the total new jobs as of the first quarter, the largest groups were in agriculture (408,000 new jobs), subdivision and related trade (346,000 jobs) and private household services (301,000 jobs). By occupation category, self-employed workers increased by 869,000 of the new jobs, while unpaid family labor increased by close to 400,000. One can surmise from these data that the new "trade" jobs were probably mostly in the informal sector (i.e., self-employed vendors), while the new agriculture jobs are likely unpaid family labor. In other words, the economy may have generated almost 1.3 million jobs last year, but the quality of these jobs still leaves much to be desired. In fact, the proportion of wage and salary workers to the total employed would have gone down a full percentage point, while those of self-employed and unpaid family workers have gone up.

In short, whether we're looking at employment or GDP growth data, it's not just quantity that counts, but quality as well. And we need to go beyond positive or negative signs to see that.

Comments welcome at chabito@gmail.com.info

By Reuters/W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT 3% more in the first months to May P343.61 billion for interest and principal payments on its borrowings, higher by 3.7 percent than the P331.59 billion paid to the same period last year.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury show that from January to May, P132.99 billion was spent on interest payments, up by 0.6 percent from the P132.99 billion a year ago.

Also, P200.05 billion in principal was paid, increasing by 5.7 percent from P189.31 billion in the first five months of last year.

Interest and principal payments made to domestic lenders fell by 3 percent to P222.09 billion from P229.74 billion.

Payments made to foreign creditors rose by 24.3 percent to P110.76 billion from P89.79 billion.

The government is expected to continue borrowing in the second semester as it has to finance about half of its P300-billion deficit program for the year.

However, 2009 fiscal void is a reason for the Philippines' dual credit ratings to slip a notch down, the Philippines' ratings amid projections of the budget deficit ballooning further and expectations of worse economic performance is the remainder of the year.

The Singapore-based bank said in its latest report on Asian economies that the outlook on the Philippines was such despite a relatively strong current position, with a foreign currency reserve of $36.1 billion or 5.5 times short-term external debt.

"Nevertheless, the rising debt burden could attract unwanted attention from ratings agencies, which already seem to have the country on their radar screen," the bank said.

Fitch Ratings last finished and Fitch Ratings currently rate the country's long-term foreign currency debt at BB- and BB, respectively, with a stable outlook. Both ratings are below investment grade.

In 2009, the government's programmed payments for the principal and interest will reach P343.1 billion or 8.7 percent higher than the actual payment of P312.7 billion last year.

Of this year's debt servicing, P166.6 billion represents principal payments, while P399.7 billion accounts for interest expense.

The year's debt servicing payments accounts for 3.7 percent of gross domestic products projected for next year's 4.2 percent.

Go fish farming, fisherfolk urged

By Rica T. Chicombra

THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is promoting fish farming to reverse the supply of fish in the country, despite the challenges brought about by climate change, the agency said.

Citing international studies, BFAR head Malcolm I. Sarmiento Jr. said climate change was making fishing trips more perilous as fishermen were forced to venture further to the ocean to catch fish.

"Climate change would definitely affect fish stocks because the spawning habit of the fishes as well as their migratory pattern can change (nominally Already, many fishermen are reporting that because of the unpredictable weather it is becoming more difficult," Sarmiento said.

Sarmiento explained that as the seas warmed up, coral bleaching becomes more pronounced and harmful algal blooms would increase.

The threats will directly affect coral reefs and fish habitats may lead to the increase of red tide and ciguatera poisoning incidences.

Cigiatera is a food-borne illness in humans caused by eating marine species whose flesh is contaminated with a group of naturally occurring organisms per cent in some algae.

According to Sarmiento, fish farming provides a good alternative to open sea fishing since it ensures regular fish harvests and, therefore, a more regular source of income.

"Unlike in deep-sea fishing where operators take care of expensive fuels, fish farming using fish cages requires only constant catering and feeding of the fish stocks to a specific location," he said.

Sarmiento added that his agency intends intensify its 6-year-old "sea-cage" scheme in order to encourage more fisherfolk associations to engage into fish farming.

Currently, the BFAR has established 40 municipal areas in collaboration with the local government in municipal waters reporting that the number of fishermen participating in the scheme has been difficult," Sarmiento said.

The undersecretary said an admin team patrolled areas to prevent unfair damages caused by other fishermen.

Under the said state-cage scheme, BFAR will provide a qualified fisherfolk group the materials to build the sea cages and then install them in the waters.

The agency will also link them to other producers for the initial feed requirements.

Within a period of two years or an average of four harvests, he said a fisherman cooperative would be able to earn its full the cost of the cage and acquire additional cages for their business revenue.

Exports to Japan down 36%

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE EXports to Japan, its second biggest market, increased marginally, with the value of goods shipped falling by 36.4 percent to $4.8 billion in the first four months of the year.

According to the Japan External Trade Organization, shipments from the Philippines to Japan in the same period last year totaled $2.9 billion.

In April alone, the value of Japan-bound shipments fell 36.5 percent to $972.9 million, from $791.4 million in the same period last year.

From January to April, the Philippines recorded a more substantial fall in imports from Japan, down 36.1 percent to $4.8 billion from $7.5 billion during the same period last year.

Japanese products shipped to the country, however, plunged 36.5 percent to $2.1 billion from $3.3 billion during the first four months of the year.

Overall, Japanese trade with all its partners contracted. Exports to partner economies slowed by 28.3 percent to $163.3 billion from $205.8 billion during the first four months last year.

Imports, meanwhile, declined 20.9 percent to $172.3 billion as of end-April, from $242.9 billion in the same period in 2008.

In the first four months, Japan registered a trade deficit of $9 billion.

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Toyota Certifies Econogas-Voltran Vogas Plus Kits for Toyota Altis, Vios, Avanza and Innova

MAKALA, Philippines: Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. last February certified the Econogas-Voltran VOGAS PLUS kit as certified compatible with its Toyota Altis, Vios, Avanza and Innova.

This certification was garnered after extensive static and dynamic testing by the engineers and service professionals from Toyota Motor Philippines, Inc. (TMPI).

Passing the required strict quality standards required by TMPI including performance results to ensure that there is no performance reduction between the use of gasoline and LPG, the VOGAS PLUS system was tuned by Gunkan Bonito, Head of Research and Development at Voltran while by the actual dynamometer testing was facilitated by Autoplus Chief Mechanic Francisco "Pacho" Blanco at its headquarters in EDSA.

The VOGAS PLUS DUAL COMPUTER was tuned to ensure that the power and torque curves were precise and in tune with the actual engine management system under Philippine conditions. All tuning and adjustments were observed by Toyota specialists from the Customer Service Operations (CSO). The verdict is that the system is entirely compatible with the Toyota engine.

Toyota also commented to its recommendation to its dealers that due to the extensive testing and validation conducted, the installation of VOGAS PLUS to the Toyota Vios, Avanza, Innova and Altis can be done without voiding or violating the factory warranty. This means the customer will have the unchanged protection under the normal 3-year, 100,000 kilometers Toyota warranty.

As pump prices of unleaded at P58.00 diesel is at various P19.80 per liter of LPG fuel, the use of VOGAS PLUS will provide the motorist using about 15 to 25 liters per day can easily recover the investment in as fast as 4 to 6 months. That is a savings of about P6,600 per month for an average 15 liter per day usage or P14,600 per month if the vehicles uses about 25 liters a month.

Moreover, the Toyota owner commits to the global effort to save the earth through 75% less carbon monoxide emissions, 85% hydrocarbons, 87% less ozone-damaging emissions and 90% less sulphur particulates. Visit Econogas at #272 G. Araneta Ave. Brgy. Talayan Quezon City near Del Monte Ave. or call 7122098, 7937512 for more information.

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GMA 7 takes aim at rival's ...

From page B1

those areas to evolve there to switch," he said. "We may expand or outpace that given the prospects we've lined up for the rest of the year."

At the same time, Yulong noted that the firm has yet to feel the effects of the advertising slowdown feared by the media industry amid the economic crisis.

"We're not feeling the crisis," he said. "We've even looking at a billion [pesos] in sales for June. This is higher than last year's."

Earlier, the company disclosed that it earned P1.09 billion for the first five months of the year on the back of record high revenues. The January-to-May profit level was up 22 percent.

Jollibee group to focus on expanding overseas

By Dixie C. Dandan

LOCAL FASTFOOD GIANT JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. is ramping up its overseas expansion to fuel future growth despite the current global economic slump, aiming to raise the share of offshore business to 50 percent of the total in about eight years.

JFC's international strategy is two-fold. Bring the Jollibee, Chowking and Red Ribbon brands to countries with heavy concentration of overseas Filipinos and expand in fast-growing markets by acquiring local players—like its acquisition of China—and expanding there.

"But it will be quite difficult to global dump). Therefore, we just have to make sure we focus on value and product taste. There are the key. Customers will always be saying our, the challenge is: Can you sustain [value] JFC president Tony Tan Caktiong said in a briefing after the company's annual stockholders' meeting last Friday.

"Of course, if the economy is in recession, we also slow down, but we're still doing well," he said.

Latin Tan says the group will open one Jollibee and another Chowking store in Qatar as part of its expansion in the Middle East. The group has 10 Chowking stores in Dubai.

In about eight years from now, JFC's business story be more global between domestic and international as far as sales are concerned, said company chief finance officer Ernesto Tanmantiong.

Five years ago, the overseas business contributed only 5 percent of total sales. As of last year, the share has gone up to 13 percent and further to 16 percent as of the first quarter of this year.

"It's going there," Tanmantiong said, noting that starting next year, JFC may start opening more stores overseas than in the Philippines. "If you grow organically, then acquire other businesses abroad, the combination of that will drive growth."

In 2008, JFC opened 180 new stores, the most it has launched in a single year. Of the new stores added, 79 or 44 percent were outside the Philippines—45 in China (Yonghe King), 21 in the United States and 20 in other countries.

The JFC group has 1,021 stores, of which 306 are overseas. The flagship Jollibee brand, for instance, has 30 stores in the US and nine in Hanoi. Chowking has 17 in the US.

But the biggest overseas expansion so far is in China, where JFC last acquired two noodlemaker chains. It also signed a joint-venture agreement for a 70-percent share in Lee Dong, a 9-branch restaurant chain in Taiwan.

Last year, it acquired Hong Zhuang Yuan, a restaurant chain with major in its core product with 30 stores located mostly in Beijing.

Foreign units to account for 50% of sales

Union Bank profit up 44% in 5 months

UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES posted a 44-percent growth in first-month net profit from a year ago, fueled by a strong expansion of earnings from core lending as well as trading activities.

The country's eighth-biggest bank in terms of disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had booked a net income of P1.4 billion in the January-to-May period against P967 million a year ago as interest income from loans expanded 78 percent year-on-year to P2.9 billion on the back of a more-than-half loan portfolio and healthy margins.

Similarly, interest income from trading and investment securities improved 33 percent to P1.77billion. As a result, total revenue income reached P5.1 billion during the period, better by 40 percent than the same period last year. This was even as net interest expenses rose 66 percent to P2.5 billion due to a ballooning deposit volume.

Lucio Co-Jr., bank chair and CEO, said, "Union Bank's year-to-date performance in 2009 is a testament to the success of our beta strategy of strengthening our core business toward a more sustainable income stream while remaining prepared for trading opportunities amid the prevailing market volatility."

Net interest income climbed 18 percent to P2.4 billion from a year ago.

Operating income for the first five months surged 53 percent to P1.6 billion from P1 billion in the same period last year, supported largely by the 243-percent upswing in trading and foreign exchange gains.

Operating expenses increased at a slower pace of 11 percent to P1.3 billion.

Sinophil eyes utility projects

INVESTMENT HOLDING FIRM Sinophil Corp. plans to embark on new businesses like water and power distribution, using about P1 billion in expected proceeds from a bond issue to be redeemed sooner with affiliate Belle Corp.

"We have formed a committee to check what new business to get into," Sinophil chair Willy Ocier told reporters, after the company's stockholders' meeting last week.

The main asset of Sinophil, which is 58-percent owned by Belle, is its shares in a 52-hectare property in Tagaytay, Batangas, called "Sacobia Highlands," which is south of Belle's own Plantation Hills.

Ocier said Sinophil expected to generate P1 billion from the venture over the next three to five years. The funds, in turn, would be used for new and "exciting" business ventures.

Sinophil started out as an oil and gas exploration company in 1995 but has since evolved into an investment holding company.

Aurelio Consunji, chief operating officer of Belle, said water and power distribution within Tagaytay Highlands would be a potential new business for Sinophil.

He added that the company was open to exploring opportunities in harnessing alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar but noted that distribution would likely be the first phase of diversification into businesses other than real estate.

He noted that the group was in fact considering to put up a test windmill in Tagaytay Highlands. Once Sinophil develops the property, the plan is to expand its potential infrastructure business outside Tagaytay Highlands.

Belle, for its part, plans to spend about P600 million this year and roughly the same amount next year for new development within its flagship 1,300-hectare Tagaytay Highlands.

Belle chief finance officer Ahmed Yusoi said the capital spending programmed by this year were mostly higher than the P400-P500 million in spending last year partly because of the expected completion of a major road infrastructure within Tagaytay Highlands before the year ends, on top of new projects lined up for this year. Dorcas C. Bonifacio

Gov't weighs options ...

deficit goes by more than five times during the period.

Documents from the Treasury showed that in the first five months, the government borrowed P258.59 billion, from here and abroad, compared to the P216.93 billion in the same period in 2008.

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Japan last week, Tesoo signed with JBIC president Shinichi Watanabe a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on a financial support of up to $1 billion for the Philippines.

The last time that the Philippine government tapped the Japanese financial market was in 2001 with the issuance of $434 million or 50 billion yen worth of samurai bonds—offshore peso-denominated bonds issued by nonresidents instead of going through banks.

The Philippines will sell samurai bonds only if the issuance will be covered by a guarantee from JBIC and if the guarantee fee will be reduced by the Japanese institution, if possible. The two parties have yet to agree on the amount of guarantee fee.

Without a guarantee from JBIC, borrowings via samurai bonds may be costly. But if the Philippine government will be asked to give a high guarantee fee, then it might as well issue sovereign bonds than samurai bonds, a finance official said.

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JG Summit seen to offer debt paper

Firm seeks to raise ₱5B-₱10B to boost capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CONGLOMERATE JG SUMMIT HOLDings Inc. may sell between P5 billion and P10 billion worth of debt instruments to the domestic market to boost its working capital, banking sources said.

The company has sounded off investors to tap the financial market, but has yet to decide whether to issue corporate notes or unlisted institutional investors or retail bonds to a select investor base, a banker said.

Some banks have already been approached to help arrange the prospective bond-raising although nothing is final yet, sources said.

If JG Summit would like a better debt mix, one source said it could opt for corporate notes but if it secured a larger issuance, it might use the same route recently taken by tycoon Henry Sy's SM Investments Corp. which successfully raised P5.8 billion from its retail bond debut.

In the meantime, JG Summit's property arm Robinsons Land Corp. is about to complete a P5-billion bond foray in the next couple of weeks. JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei said in a briefing after the holding company's stockholders meeting on Friday.

"After that, we have not disclosed any other plan to raise funds," Gokongwei said.

Most of the capital spending this year, he said, would go to the telecommunication side of the business; funding for which shall in turn be financed by export credit agencies.

JG Summit has set aside P38 billion for capital spending this year.

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New satellite TV service launched

By Rita T. Dhesandra

BUSINESSMEN engaged in cable TV business, and consumer electronics services have jointly invested $15M (million in a new $20,000 Philippine formed called Global Satellite or Glot.

Glot, the brand owned by local company Global Broadcasting and Multimedia Inc. (GBMI), is a direct to home (DTH) Satellite TV brand established to serve areas without wired cable.

The major partners in GBMI are Philip Chua, president and CEO of Destiny Cable Inc.; Wilson Tieng, president of Solar Entertainment Corp.; and David Lim, president of Bella Group Inc., which hold 250,000 Philippine handsets in 2009.

Lim, who serves as chair of Global Broadcasting, said in an interview that the $250 million investment only the "entry facilities" needed to put up the service.

"That's doesn't factor in the cost of the set top boxes which will decode the satellite TV signals," he said.

"The investors (that) to become the cable associates satellite arm," he said.

Philex unit reports oil, gas find in Vietnam

By Amy R. Remo

PHILEX MINING Corp., the country's largest copper and gold mining firm, said its affiliate, Philex Petroleum Plc, discovered a major oil and gas field in offshore Vietnam—the first in that country.

It said this potential the acquisitions of to decisions to diversify in copper and gold mining operations to include the oil exploration business. The investment is likewise expected to provide Philex with a new revenue stream on top of its copper and gold sales.

Philex owns 21.1 percent of Philex, an international upstream oil and gas exploration and production company focused mainly on the Pacific Rim, with operations in Vietnam, Philippines, Peru and the United States.

Through its Petroenergy Resources Corp., Philex also has small interests in Service Contract 116 on the Cuba oil field in offshore Palawan and the Sherwood field in Galoc, which are both already producing oil.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex said Philex had successfully completed the drill stem testing of the Ca Rong Do (Red Emperor) discovery well on Block 07/03 in offshore Vietnam, which flowed oil at a combined rate of 3,360 barrels per day plus 8.1 million standard cubic feet of gas per day.

Two of the reservoir zones were tested and showed production results for oil and gas.

Addressing what matters to you the most in today's challenges regarding security technology

Today's world is not as safe as it used to be. Criminals and ill-willed people are more aggressive and smarter than before. The ability to detect, recognize and identify both real & potential threats is no longer a luxury that can wait until tomorrow.

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Serial germ killers on the loose

By Raquel F Gamez

KOREA'S CONSUMER ELECTRONICS giant LG has recently launched a range of home appliances capable of maintaining sterileness in food items while killing bacteria, molds and viruses in the air and clothes—apart from their original functions.

For instance, LG's new top mount refrigerators belonging to the "LG Health +" appliances can keep vegetables and fruits nearly vitamin-a hundred percent through a unique cooling and humidity monitoring control system.

LG's top-loading washer features "smart cleaning," which employs a special sensor to ensure clothes are thoroughly rinsed of residual detergents, a type of allergen.

This washer also has the capability to "hygienically" clean itself with high-speed spinning.

The new air conditioners are also wonder cooling machines equipped with advanced filtering system that rids the air of microscopic contaminants (odor and germs), pollens, mold, large dust and even fumes from cars and cigarettes.

LG claims that it is the first consumer electronics company in Korea to integrate and marketing a comprehensive suite of home appliances aimed at helping consumers remain healthy in homes.

HEALTH + washer

In fact, the company has launched its "Health +" campaign in Asia, with the aim of encouraging consumers to make homes cleaner for the family.

"Healthy lifestyles start at home. Our products make it easier for homemakers to maintain a healthy home in every aspect, such as saving healthy or inhaling clean air. We hope the products will provide consumers peace of mind, knowing that the appliances contribute to the well being of their families," says Raymond Hemandez, corporate marketing head of LG Electronics Philippines.

The new LG appliances that can help keep home occupants healthy occupy them from the bad bacteria, don't come cheap.

For example top mount refrigerators range from P53,998 to P68,000 and P83,000 to P109,000 (for the side by side 21 cu. ft. model).

Split type air conditioners with advanced filter system range from P27,999 to P92,499. Top-load washers range from P18,900 to P58,995, while front-load washers range from P23,995 to P54,995. Health inclued comes at a high price.

Nokia rides the next mobile email wave

By Rizz T. Olchondra

THAT IS THE WRITING ON THE wall, according to Nokia Philippines Bingles + Travel + Social Networking = Demand for mobile e-mail via PC-like smart phones.

Nokia Philippines country manager Wilfredo Hamilton-Abaya said in an interview that *lifestyle changes are making* mobile users more dependent on their phones. This is driving the market for affordable PC-like Internet-powered phones.

He went so far as to predict that in a "few years," the next million Internet users in the country may have their first online experience through the mobile phone and not through PCs as internet cafés.

Data by Business Monitor International said in its Philippines Telecommunications Report that the Philippines has a mobile penetration rate of about 76 percent.

In contrast, various studies put PC penetration at less than 5 percent, although Internet penetration is higher at around 20 percent because of the presence of Internet cafés all over the country.

To date the mobile e-mail wave, Nokia has launched about 30 e-mail-capable handsets. These range from entry level units priced P3,000, up to the latest messenger PC mobile model called the N97.

"I believe the Philippines, in a few years, will not only be known as the sending capital of the world but *also the e-mail capital of the world.* The Philippines is already in the top 5, so I think we can achieve that in three years," Whyte said.

THE NOKIA 2600 Slide retails at P4,995.

Samsung touchscreen debuts in CommunicAsia

SAMSUNG HAS RECENTLY introduced another touch screen phone—the Jet—at CommunicAsia, a tech event held in Singapore.

Aside from the Samsung Jet, the company also showcased over 20 mobile phones, MP3 players, and a number of web devices.

New mobile devices include the latest smart phones, Omnia II i8000 and the OmniaLITE i8510HD.

Both phones, which are upgrades of the flagship Omnia phone, are expected to strengthen Samsung's leadership in the smart phone market.

Samsung Jet took the centerstage at CommunicAsia.

Jet we consider a complete mobile experience like never before, the Jet comes with the most advanced multimedia and data communication features powered in the most user-friendly way.

The Jet also showcases the stunning Ultra Brilliant Display—the world's first WVGA AMOLED screen that provides vivid color and outstanding luminescence for the best and brightest images.

The display's ultra *brilliance* is matched by a superfast high performance 480 MHz application processor that enables the most demanding and simultaneous use of mobile applications.

The Jet will be *available in July at a* retail price of P32,490.

This dizzying of mobile products validates the prediction of Samsung ans as a disruptive, fast-paced thinking company that feeds consumer demand for innovative new technologies and lifestyle-changing needs.

Tech giant flexes muscle using high-end phones

Text and photos by Charles F. Bahen

NOKIA N97

THIS MONTH IS definitely a shaker on the market now the launch of a number of sleek-looking smart phones like the HTC Magic and Apple's iPhone 3GS.

And in these new and powerful mobile phones made for our attention—and wallets—Nokia's heavyweight may not be missing their latest collection of high-end phones. The phones were recently unveiled at the Nokia Connection event in Singapore.

Taking the spotlight at the event was Nokia's new flagship mobile phone, the N97. Quintessentially, the model is more available here at around P54,000.

The N97 is the Finnish giant's first touch-enabled S-Series device and, unlike its predecessor's 3-way revised slide design, it adopted a slide that moves horizontally, revealing a full qwerty keyboard while slightly tilting its 3.5-inch widescreen.

This device supports a whopping 40-GB storage capacity (its 32 GB in-board memory is expandable by using a 16-GB microSD card) so one could keep a sizable music or video collection or perform continuous playback time of up to 1.5 days.

This is complemented by a 5-megapixel camera that features a Carl Zeiss optics, a 16:9 and DVD-quality video capture, and support for several other like Share on Ovi for machine sharing over 3.5G or through Wi-Fi.

The ETG Nokia's newest business phone, possesses a slightly bigger key pad (about one keys rearranged), a user-

NOKIA 5330

(last) 3.5mm head phone jack, and 3MP camera, the 872 possesses upgrades (but are more than adequate).

"We incorporated in the 872, desktop like e-mail experience ... and a new optical navigation key for more intuitive scrolling," said Dan Shorrock, Nokia vice president for E-Series.

For music lovers, Nokia made sure the new 3500 XpressMusic is well equipped as well as more fun to operate.

The 5330 Xpress-Music uses a touch interface that features "scrolling" Contacts list, which allows quick access to up to 20 contacts and communication history including e-mails, phone calls, photos or video sent and media updates.

The home-screen also features text feeds shortcuts to current and popular social networks, like Facebook and Myspace.

Since music and entertainment are central to this device, the 3500 XpressMusic gives 17 hours of playback time, excellent audio quality and is included with 4GB (microSD expandable to up to 16GB.

Nokia said the 872 and 3500 XpressMusic would be available late in the third quarter.

Smart brings in thumbable Google phone

THUMBMOBILE DEVICES OF DIFFERENT brands have flooded the mobile phone market since the first full touchscreen handset—the iPhone—debuted three years ago.

The list of smart phones has further expanded with the entry of a touchscreen handset from HTC called the HTC Magic—a phone running on "Android," the first open source mobile operating system created by Google.

HTC Magic was launched in the country last Thursday by HTC Philippines and leading wireless operator Smart Communications.

The tablet style HTC Magic, which features a 3.2-inch touchscreen display, a 5.2-MP camera, and a trackball, will be made available through new connection and renewal subscriptions through Smart Gold plans 800, 888, 1200, 1888, 2500, and 3500 under a 24-month lock-in period.

Also known as the Google phone, the HTC Magic is actually HTC's second Android-based device. Last year, the Taiwanese smart phone maker produced the first Android phone called the G1, which was first distributed by T-Mobile in the United States.

The G1, a touchscreen phone with a pull-out qwerty keypad, received much attention both there because its looks were not in par with the pretty high-end looking iPhone and other touchscreen handsets that have succeed.

HTC Magic fits in your palm just right.

This time around, HTC, which is considered as expert in making high-end smart phones, introduced significant upgrades to the HTC Magic, both in physical appearance and software.

HTC's newest generation Android phone got lighter and thinner with the removal of the qwerty keypad. It is now boasted to an attractive, curvy, and shiny plastic casing. It also now runs on the latest Cupcake 1.5 update of the Android OS.

Mark Sirgler, HTC Philippines country manager, says the HTC Magic has "added enhancements" to the Android platform to improve the touch user interface.

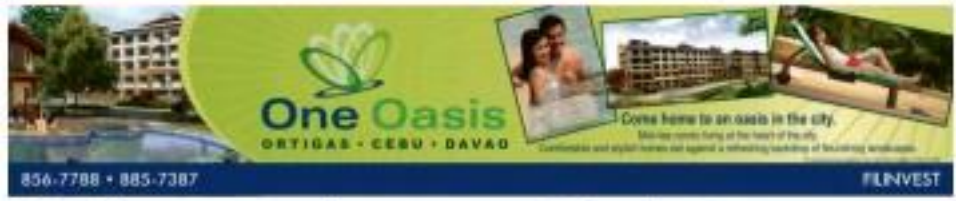
For instance, he says, the phone now features an extended and customizable desktop, which a user can organize into a "work" desktop or a "multimedia" desktop. It has smart dialer, which allows users to easily place calls by just pressing the first two letters of the name contained on the contact list. It also has voice search built in Google search function, which can be accessed instantly by pressing the hardware button below the display.

"The HTC Magic is a true form mobile Internet device (MID) that fits snugly into your pocket. It offers fast, always Internet browsing through 7.2 Mbps high speed packet downlink access (HSDPA). Accessing social networking sites and uploading and downloading photos is also a breeze."

As an MID, the HTC Magic supports e-mail account setup, multiple mailbox management, and Microsoft Exchange server synchronization for e-mail, calendar and contacts.

Raquel F Gamez

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quiogue-Espino



RP shows way in renewables

By Arra R. Baron

WHEN IT COMES TO PROMOTING THE use of renewable energy, the Philippines is one of the countries leading the way in Asia.

The Philippines, after all, passed the Renewable Energy Act in 2008—reportedly the first and most comprehensive in Asia—which is now paving the way for the quick development of alternative energy sources, such as geothermal, wind, biomass, solar, hydro and ocean.

Believing that energy security and independence from costly oil imports are tagged on the development of renewable energy, the Department of Energy signed the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) just five months after the law was passed.

With the signing, the DOE expects to see more investments in the sector and electric power production from the sector to 5,000 megawatts (MW) by 2015.

"The incentives outlined within the Renewable Energy Law and its IRR are showing that the Philippines is truly open for business within this sector," noted Ole Isaacsen, Global Green Power Plc Corp.

Global Green Power is one of the foreign companies investing heavily in the Philippines renewable energy sector.

Through its local subsidiaries, the company is infusing a total of P5.6 billion (about $80 million for each project) to put up three 15-MW biomass power plants in Pulupot, Nonoc Iligan and Pinapugasan.

These projects are the first to be endorsed by the DOE since the passing of the Renewable Energy Bill in December last year, all were registered by the Board of Investments as pioneer projects.

Recently, the company's subsidiary, Global

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION Since 1954

THE PHILIPPINE MARKETING CRISIS SUMMIT

Move over crisis: PMA says 'Yes, we can!'

For the Philippine Marketing Association, confidence is the name of the game.

Seasoned marketers and marketing experts in the country are in unison to use mighty assertions: there is no room for hopelessness and surrender despite the economic recession. For them, Filipinos can surpass the lately against the financial crisis and use courage as solution. All they need is a plan—a good, feasible and effective marketing plan.

Fueling the recently concluded sixth Marketing Monitoring Summit at Gallery Philippine Plaza in Pasig, an array of interesting ideas and approaches were presented by distinguished speakers who gave a clearer glimpse of where the industry is now, what the people involved can do to make a difference, and how they can face the challenges that the global economic recession has thrown their way.

Philippine Daily Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez-Prieto opened with a statement that there is no better set of people to get us from this even more sharp than the marketing people. "The innate creativity of marketers is essential and effective in helping the country out of the crisis," she said. Prieto also stressed that, "yes, we're facing a recession but there are always solutions to do something about it."

And finding solutions became the main theme of the discussion. For Bernardo Villegas, university professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific, crisis should be seen as an opportunity. He confidently pointed out the various developments that are happening in the country in the economy, particularly the increase of Filipino workers being deployed all over the world despite the issues of unemployment. Villegas also proclaimed a boom time forecast that the "Philippines will be one of the most dominating economies in the world in the next 25 years."

Moreover, Villegas stressed the importance of good and effective leadership. "We are living in interesting times. Interventional powers will come less than ought. To be highly competitive, a good leader for the country's stakes a difference."

What recession? We are ready.

The summit also paved the way for the pooling of the Filipino consumers in uncertain times. As discussed by Yeb Ong, group chair of Campaigns and Grey Direct's change in buying behavior is apparent to our heightened interest to payless, more impulsive buying, preferring cheaper alternatives to high-priced entertainment, and shopping indulgences. She said that Filipinos are more inclined to things "Kung cum the sun makakanya" by rather choosing usage or re-product substitution. That's why companies need to discover how to sustain brand loyalty and think of ways to keep Filipinos drawn to their products.

"To survive or thrive in turbulent times, we need the right attitude, confidence and energy. You have to get in touch with your consumers to establish a strong connection. You have to have contingency plans. Be fast and flexible. Focus on consumer/shopper value," Ong shared. "Filipinos will survive but only what they need. So while in the process of driving innovation, you also have to substitute new ways to help them save money."

The coping behavior of Filipinos, according to Gus Dy-Liacuan, TNS managing director, is triggered by the latest data showing that the country is the "most wary nation" to get affected by the economic crisis in Asia. To cope, Filipinos consume less and cheaper foods, conserve energy and unravel of driving or utilizing public transportation, reduce children's allowance and last stay at home." 87 percent of Filipinos think that price is the most important factor in their purchases. So we have to give them what they need at the most affordable price. But to connect more with a coping Filipino, you have to keep everything within the reach: remind him of his hopes and dreams, link him up with his loved ones, respect his time and make him feel responsible for his well-being," Dy-Liacuan concluded.

Marketers must also unlearn on looking beyond the obvious. Aurora Dimdimbolan, president of the American Chamber of Commerce, said that aggressive reconstruction, development of new products, and working as a team are essential to drive growth in times of crisis. Furthermore, Claude Habayeb, CEO of SHP Fashion Textile Management in Hongkong and North Asia, noted that we can learn a thing or two from how China managed to be one of the most dominating economies in the world. "China has a remarkable ability to sell to the whole world because they are all about domestic development. China's economy for always been an internal affair," Habayeb said.

Prospects abound

The country is full of abundant opportunities, especially in employment. That's what Oscar Salazar, chief executive officer of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) stated when he said, that BPO has become a career for excellence in the Philippines due to depth of talent. "People is an important industry input. That's why BPOs have been growing in all sectors at a tremendous rate. Employers across untapped talent across the country to mitigate wage pressure in NCR, and integrate real estate gains to ensure because business environment is one of the key key factors in our industry's investment decisions."

Also, the role of government in economic development in the midst of economic quandary was deemed important by Press Secretary Cerge Remonde. "The government is pushing for our good selling points that make Brand Philippines more millions in tourist arrivals and foreign exchange. The country has quite a number of good selling points that also gave us new economic opportunities and increased access to social services and have made the country more favored, looking at it is today."

Beyond traditional marketing

David Guerrero, chair and CEO of BBDO Guerrero Proximity Philippines, shared that in reaching out to target publics, exclusively is key. "If you get something, you would want to give something back, that's how most people think. So in our marketing ideas, we want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to become less selfish," Guerrero also pointed out that the emergence of the social media, like Facebook, Twitter, and blogs, among others, open new possibilities for groups exclusively due to wider access, faster contained feedback and with the least cost.

Market-driving strategy instead of market-driven? It's more effective for growth, said Josiah Go, chair and chief marketing strategist of Brainsmith and Fishbiz Inc. "Think beyond existing market. Embrace what is being ignored by competitors," Go shared. According to him, market-driving strategies embrace innovative changes. Decrease total demand of the products in the industry logic (from being better to being different – through innovation) and business systems (going beyond value proposition improvement of value chain) to grow its profit from marketing orientation to entrepreneurial orientation) and industry's demand from marginal and non customers.

Since entrepreneurship has become a revolution in the country, Jr. Lui Sopilden Arong, president of the Association of Trading Institutions in Foreign Trade in Asia and the Pacific, and Ramon Lopez, executive director for the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, talked about what makes businesses and businessmen thrive.

For Arong, the business game is about: nothing so much money is possible; being a competitive monopoly; being able to dictate terms; maximizing bargaining power; and dominating a market. "More importantly, we need to address these questions: what is produced and for whom? What are your clients really buying? In what sector are producing what you are selling?"

Lopez, on the other hand, talked about what it takes for an entrepreneur to succeed. "He or she must be able to master self with a clear vision and enthusiasm, passion, determination and a positive and optimistic outlook. He or she must search opportunities by determining what the market needs and wants, and he is the most astute competitor by utilizing functional synergies such as people and organization structure," Lopez said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abet Dee Hunt, chair of the Standing Committee of the Nanyang Business School in Singapore, talked about the bold steps and other paradigms to be most successful. "The traditional 4Ps (product, pricing, placement and promotion) are heavily myopically flawed. They employ more "inside out" [that is what I make, trust you please buy] (87) instead of an "outside in' perspective (This is what I want, can you make it?). Marketers now should adopt (GSE) - Solution, Education, Access, and Satisfier, a smart and enabling model that can make a difference in marketing strategies the world over."

In terms of corporate management, Dr. Wendy Garcia Jr, CPM, dean of the College of Business Administration at De La Salle of the Philippines, detailed the importance of public relations as an effective tool to address important issues of the companies. "Reputation is key. That's why some companies enjoy the privilege of being among the most admired, most service-oriented, most recognizable brands, because the consumers believe in them. Brand loyalty follows." To have an effective PR as part of management operations gives leverage to a company's goal for development.

Finally, Cherry Soriano Cosico, president of ABS-CBN, shared that emotional selling propositions is more effective and more selling. And this is how the network reaches out to the mass. "There are two kinds of Filipino mass: the poorest of the poor or those who don't see any hope, unqualified to any job, and resigned to their station in life; and those who believe that hard work can give them a better life. Eventually, hope is what every one needs."

Day 1

Oscar Salazar

Claude Habayeb and Aurora Dimdimbolan

Myleen Abiva and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez of Philippine Daily Inquirer; PMA President Myleen Abiva

Keynote address by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

Francisco Alday de Vera, Gigi Rodriguez, Gus Dy-Liacuan, Honorable Cerge Remonde, Myleen Abiva, Arnel Ferreras, Ann Hicks de Torres, and Jo-ar Flores

Day 2

Max Lopez and Juliet Ko

Dr. Wendy Garcia

Prof. Dan Hunt Pinon

Ann and Palmong during a comedy act

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Iran 2009 - What it portends for RP 2010?

MAPping THE FUTURE

Felicio C. Tirano

WHILE TRACKING THE UNfolding turmoil in Iran, I could not help being spooked by the images of the bloody streets of Tehran reigning in Manila and the protesters. Not this year, but next!

Watching the revolt and the subsequent middle class of Tehran's rural cities with only strike and unease to match the ennui and trauma of the police and militia was an explosive event that we joined everyone outside Iran.

Since the revolution of 1979 that deposed the Shah, the people of Iran had long been suppressed and repressed by the ruling theocracy and the urbanized middle class was the most likely to march and shout "Death to Khamenei."

What triggered the turmoil? A more allegations of fraud in the recent Iranian presidential candidate, Mir Hossein Mousavi, could not have been the fuse? After all, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, favored by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had won by more than 11 million votes!

And he won by only a million votes, as allegations of cheating could be taken seriously that 11 million votes?

Clearly, the election results were legitimate, Khamenei insisted.

Telltale signs

But the suspicion of a rigged election gained credence. Since the revolution of 1979, Iranian rulers had valued the importance of free and clean elections because it was essential for the legitimacy of the system.

While some cheating at the precinct level was somewhat, it was only in the last election that a charge of widespread rigging had shook. Why? Because telltale signs could not be ignored. Long lines and queues were banned and reports of ballot box stuffing circulated.

Nor is simply ballots or a disbelievers result in the intelligence of the Iranian voters that re-electionist President Ahmadinejad did not earn how they would take an unprecedented votes were out, with the majority to his favor!

Asked how that could be possible, his campaign manager merely begged the question, "If people did not trust the election, there would not have been such a high turnout." But no election was the fraud that even choice were split and not ex-Presidents had sympathized with the reformists.

Millions of Iranians did not buy the Ayatollah's declaration of the election of Ahmadinejad as Divine Sanction. To them, the regime has lost its legitimacy. It was no longer the personality of the candidates, but the integrity of the elections, that mattered. The people asked, "Where is my vote?"

In an effort to mollify the people, the Guardian Council admitted irregularities in 50 of 170 districts, including some districts that recorded the number of registered voters, but they refused to say how different the final result. It declared that there was no "major fraud," so a new election was called out.

2010 elections

The above account was not meant to draw a parallel with post Philippine elections. Rather, it is to depict what the events in Iran predicted if we are not able to conduct a clean, fair, and more importantly, transparent elections in 2010.

In Iran, it was the allegation of a rigged election that caused the streets to explode. In the Philippines, it is the lack of transparency in the automated election system in 2010 that could trigger mayhem, not just in the cities, but in the provinces.

Earlier, we endorsed the "manual-automated-random" system that uses manual voting and counting at the precinct level for automated canvassing from precinct, to municipal, provincial, city and national levels.

The reasons were:

1. Cost.—The "big bulge of P11.3 billion would not be required if only the canvassing is automated. Ordinary PCs can replace the $2,000 costly PCOS machines. Even the cost upload the IOUs in the Web at much lower rates. Excel, a software that computer literate students are familiar with.

Spending P7.1 billion for acquiring PCOS machines for voting and counting in order to save a few hours out of the 12 hours needed for the manual process flies in the face of the Stores Principle! What extra cost to be automated is the manual canvassing of votes that takes the rest of the 45 days to complete, nominating the canvassers, appointing with the use of less costly PCs will reduce the entire election timeline to only a week, and cost to P2 million at the most.

2. Tight schedule.—Though no fault of the Comelec, the budget for automation was appropriated late by Congress. Even leaving Comelec with only a few months to bid out the automation, award the contract, manufacture the 82,000 units, deliver, test, and deploy them.

Comelec also has little time to train 40,000 technicians, 500,000 watchers. Then there's the problem with 43 million voters who will have to shade ovals for the first time, on 10-10 versions of ballots with preprinted names of national and local candidates in small font due to the large number of candidates and party-lists.

Comelec will also have to assure the public that there are no errors in printing and delivery of the ballots, and hope no God Dan no hitches happen at each step of the way! Comelec Chair Melo's nightmare is understandable.

Worries may happen on a scale that spells "Failure of election." Blame should be shared by the Technical Advisory Board. They could not have been that clueless of those risks!

But, as we have seen, Murphy's Law was already operative even during the test of 30 sample units! Attacks included not from a unit being tested at controlled environment. Instantaneously was quick to provide the "devil doing the right cable next time." Still, the test is relived only a few units. Imagine testing and deploying 82,000 units from Aparri to Jolo in actual conditions.

3. And last, but most important, is the element of transparency on the lack of it. Sure, assuring us, we hear Atienza's Law, the voters will not witness the counting process—as most everyone looks forward to during elections.

After everyone has cast his ballot, the machine will automatically count the votes, and the results posted at designated places. For the first time, the voters will not see a running score on blackboards; they will read the printed results only at the end of the game.

Will the people accept such results? What if they are contrary to their expectations? Will we see placards all over the country shouting, "Where is my vote?" Can this trigger violence from losing local candidates?

And how does a candidate file an electoral protest? I have seen the importance of manually written ballots to the last elections when all three opposition candidates for mayors in Tarlac who filed their protests were able to prove thousands of ballots as fraudulent.

The cases are now with the Comelec.

Experts can determine if the handwriting was done by the same or different hands. But what to do with shaded ovals?

Crowd handling

Had Ayatollah Khamenei not heard himself in a corner by calling a stop to the street protests and issuing a severe warning that protesters will be held accountable, the violence would not have escalated.

The warning was what the protesters wanted. Not only did the unrest wounds grow larger, others joined on rooftops.

But having tasted the warning, Khamenei had no choice but to allow his militia to violently break up the crowds, and the rioters ceased.

Already 17 protesters had been killed including a young lady named Neda, whose face has become the symbol of the protest.

Mayor Lim, particularly Makati, on the other hand, has so far exercised restraint in handling protesting crowds. The last rally on Ayala Piano against the Con-ass showed the mastery of both police and crowd. There was no casualty except some busted bones from pushing—only when the duo of Jamby Orange and Bik Ta came on stage to dish out jokes.

But then, the rally also lowered the temperature of what some had hoped to be a grim and serious process. The clown of Ilocos sits also hears a thing or two from some comedians in our House who warned the crowd against baiting arms and making how bows low they spread the entire Da. Trivializing a rally is smarter than dispersing it.

2010 is different

Just as the resolution on the Con-ass serves only as the House expression of intent to violate the Constitution, as Sultan Bolkiah has put it, the protest rallies against Con-ass also serve only as warning against the administration that it will be opposed.

How does one measure enough passion to fight a mere intent? Hence the rallies become a "show your face" type of gatherings, especially for the "presidentiables."

But lest the authorities mistake the latest rallies against Con-ass as a sign that Filipinos have lost their capacity for outrage, the conduct of the automated elections of 2010 is different.

Watershed

It is a watershed in the history of Philippine elections.

Successfully implemented, and perceived to have been fair, clean, honest, and transparent, the elections will be the crowning achievement of President GMA and the Comelec. But mishandled, it can be a deluge that will engulf us all.

So we ask the Comelec under the leadership of Chit Melo, who is here to implement, ing the conduct of the first automated automated election, we urge them one to meticulously work on the offer of support from the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) in devising a parallel fallback system.

Comelec should do a weekly, or at least, monthly check on its schedule, as that should there be a major delay it can decide whether it is still feasible to continue, or abort the PCOS implementation. That's the only way the parallel fallback system can take over without any hitch. Otherwise, Comelec will not be perceived as serious in having a fallback strategy.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and not the official position of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author was three-term Representative of the 1st District of Bataan, former chair and administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and currently chair of the University of Nueva Caceres. Feedback at mapp@globelines.com.ph for previous articles, please visit map.org.ph.)

RP shows way in renewables

From page B1-1

Biomass PLC Corp. (GBC), signed three biomass supply contracts that could generate a combined P27 billion in direct and indirect economic benefits over the 25-year contract.

"Each of our 1.8 MW biomass power plants delivers an annual 800 local jobs, purchases agricultural residues and assure from the local farming community, giving them additional income, and delivers clean, decentralized and renewable energy that does not rely on imported fossil fuels," said Marlboth delos Reyes, Global Green Power director of Social Programs and Community Relations.

De Hieronymo added that such "projects are exactly what the Philippines needs at this time of financial crisis, rampant poverty and energy destabilization."

GBC signed supply contracts with Green Power Davao Philippines Inc., Green Power Nueva Ecija Philippines Inc., and Green Power Pangasinan Philippine Inc.—each of which are developing a 18.5MW biomass power plant.

The biomass needed to fuel the plants will come from farm waste and other agricultural residues such as rice and corn husks, GBC explained.

Global Green plans to source some 600 tons of biomass a day, mostly from farmers. The company, however, is still working out the schedule for the purchase of biomass from local communities.

The three power plants are expected to come on stream by 2011.

"It is very encouraging that the Philippine government, especially the Department of Energy and Agriculture are reacting quickly and positively to support renewable energy projects that address climate change while helping our farming communities," De Hieronymo said.

"We must all work together to deliver programs that bring renewable energy to the Philippines....such projects have the potential to uplift lives while providing tangible, solid opportunities," she added.

On top of upcoming economic activities in the provinces they sponsor in, the new projects plants of Global Green Power would provide the much needed additional electricity to avert any energy shortfall in the near term, particularly in the Visayas.

Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes earlier appealed to the energy stakeholders "to move quickly in order to alleviate the power crisis that is now gripping the Island of Panay."

The energy chief had also warned of possible rotating brownouts in Luzon and Visayas every day beginning 2010, unless additional power plants come to save you.

Power supply in the Visayas grid remains tight, with the affected provinces suffering from dwindling power reserves and insufficient peak capacity since last year.

Government data also showed that Luzon would need an additional 150 MW capacity by 2010.

Part of that power requirement is expected to come from renewable energy.

Race is on to create a new...

From page B1-2

will have the strongest influence on energy consumers' behavior and on the efficiency decisions they make. Besides, homes and offices. It will also harness the ingenuity of industry and channel investment to the most effective emission reductions.

While energy policy can drive technology, it may ultimately raise costs and be politically unpopular. As society and political realities favor different choices, they should remember that failure to act now could force us to make painful choices down the road.

Influencing consumer behavior may prove toughest of all. While technology will give consumers greater energy choices, it remains unclear whether people are willing to become better users of energy.

Despite the massive hurdles, the path to create a new energy system will benefit us all. It will reverse the rapid rise in the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global warming.

It will provide new business opportunities for companies and entrepreneurs. It will create well-paid jobs in a thriving new industry. Competition among energy sources will drive innovation, keep energy affordable and increase global energy security.

The race is on.

(The author is outgoing chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell. This is an excerpt of his article appeared on the June 25 issue of The London Times.)

BUSINESS Monday

BPO VILLAGE

Ayala sees green in John Hay

Text and photos by Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AYALA LAND INC. (ALI) PLANTED LAST week about a thousand pine trees near the Camp John Hay property here that it intends to convert into a high-end business process outsourcing village.

ALI and CJHDC executives lead the tree planting activity

ALI PLANS to build its TechnoPost and entrepreneur Camp John Hay.

THE AYALA property company plans to create development around the trees.

The activity made public the firm's presence in the recently-old summer capital, where it plans to follow a "green industry" principle in real estate development, said Jaime Ysa, ALI assistant vice president for business development.

The firm is investing up to P3 billion to revitalize the Camp John Hay project initiated in 2006 by PI Government Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco).

Up until ALI was marketing the new project under the brand name "Ayala Land Businesspac," to describe a business process outsourcing hub aligned with the ALI network of BPO hubs, which include the Ayala facilities at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City and Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"What is most important for the developing master plan, however, is how the firm's sustainability report fits into the Camp John Hay project, Dy said.

According to Jeanne Nevel, ALI corporate communications officer, the firm has retrofitted all of its projects with environment-friendly facilities using "a systematic review and reinforcement of environmental management strategies in the life-cycle stages of Ayala Land projects, from master planning and design to construction and property management."

During a May 4 briefing for the city council here, Richard Saavedra, ALI Northern Luzon spokesperson, said putting up the BPO village here would ease Baguio's just seven-room.

But Dy said the final plan to be chosen up by August may still see development right near of the trees to be leased land at Camp John Hay.

Businesspark towers to operate eight-four-story structures that will house "in-solution rooms" for investors. There include small-scale BPO facilities, a corridor for established BPO and five-and "edge-style dormitories" to house BPO employees, Saavedra said.

ALI also plans to develop small restaurants and stores to be set up between the trees that Baguio is known for.

Race is on to create a new world of energy

JEROEN van der Veer

By Jeroen van der Veer

WE STAND AT THE EARLY DAWN OF A new energy future. It will be powered by alternative energy and cleaner fossil fuels.

If governments adopt the right rules and incentives, by the middle of this century, renewable sources will provide nearly 30 percent of the world's energy.

Electricity will be used to fuel trusted sustainable mobility. The world's highways will rumble and roar with vehicles powered by all manner of energy: Petrol, diesel, electricity, biofuels, natural gas and hydrogen.

In the years ahead, conventional diesel and petrol cars will go increasingly far on every liter of fuel. Biofuels will account for up to 10 percent of liquid transport fuel in the next few decades.

Our Shell scenario-makers think that by 2030, up to 10 percent of new cars worldwide could be hybrid electric, such as Toyota's Prius, some of them capable of plugging in to recharge their batteries.

After 2030, fuel cell vehicles powered by hydrogen will be a small but growing part of the fleet. By 2050, more than a billion cars, vehicles are expected on the world's roads, more than double today's total.

Greater variety of fuel choices will be a boon for consumers. Different fuels will be cheaper in different regions.

In South America, biofuels will likely predominate. In Brazil, ethanol from sugarcane already supplies more than 40 percent of demand for petrol. China, meanwhile, plans to expand production and use of hybrid and electric vehicles, tapping to ease coal deposits to generate power.

Wind, solar and hydropower will account for 30 percent of electricity generation by 2050, up from about 18 percent today.

Many new coal-fired power plants are expected to capture CO_2 emissions and store it safely underground, rather than pump it into the atmosphere.

Plants increasingly will turn coal into a gas, rather than burn it. They will then treat the gas to generate power, or use it as raw material for a variety of chemical products, while CO_2 will be captured and stored.

Indeed, fossil fuels, coal, oil and natural gas, will continue to provide more than half the world's energy in 2050, building a long bridge to an era when oil becomes even more expensive.

A growing population and higher standards of living for billions of people in the developing world will mean that we need all available sources of energy to keep the world's economies humming.

So, while the world races to build up alternative fuels, it must also find new sources of fossil fuels, including unconventional ones, such as oil sands.

And we must accelerate efforts to make fossil fuels cleaner, by reducing the CO_2 emitted in their production and use.

Some of this will be easy or cheap. Industry and governments regulations must change on a huge scale and at an unprecedented pace.

According to the International Energy Agency, by 2030, we will need to invest $1.1 trillion annually in renewable energy.

Billions more must go into upgrading electricity transmission networks to handle increased demand and the on-and-off power generated by wind and solar.

Much of this money will come from private companies, but governments will need to continue using tax credits and other incentives to encourage the growth of renewables. They are still small relative to the world's overall energy needs.

Including hydropower, renewables account for about 7 percent of global energy. Wind today supplies about 1 percent, with approximately 59,000 turbines.

Biofuels, thanks partly to billions of dollars in government subsidies, now also supply about 1 percent.

To judge from society's experience with nuclear power and other technologies, new energy sources take at least 25 years to reach significant scale.

Energy companies are already preparing for the future, increasing production of natural gas, the cleanest fossil fuel, investing in renewables, such as sustainable biofuels, and researching ways to capture CO_2 and store it safely underground.

But the enormity of the challenge means that governments should do its part to encourage society's shift to a new energy system.

For instance, new technologies with great potential to reduce CO_2 emissions will require initial government support to achieve quickly the scale necessary to have real impact.

One critical step is to put a price on greenhouse gas emissions—doing so in all leading countries, not merely a few. I prefer a system that caps emissions and allows companies to trade emission allowances, as Europe's already does.

Cap-and-trade systems should encourage a relatively steady CO_2 price, which

MORE B7-4

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

International nature park rises in Palawan

The new park in Puerto Princesa is the fifth to be built among countries that border the Pacific Rim–'a string of pearls' sprung from the Ring of Fire

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

By Jessica Jaluminel Rubilen
Contributor

AN INTERnational project seeks to build friendship parks in countries bordering the Pacific Rim, an area that used to be the playground of "imperial politics." The latest park to be put up is in Palawan, a showcase of the glories of nature.

In his "La Revolucion Filipina in the Age of Empire" (published in the Japanese Journal of American Studies, No. 18, 2007), historian protocolist scholar Oscar V. Campomanes describes the prejudices and imperial—construct that is the Pacific Rim—

"Pacific Rim' or 'trans-Pacific' discourses and the notion of an American 'Pacific Century' as late 20th-century expressions of the American historical, are not recent inventions, at least not in the ways

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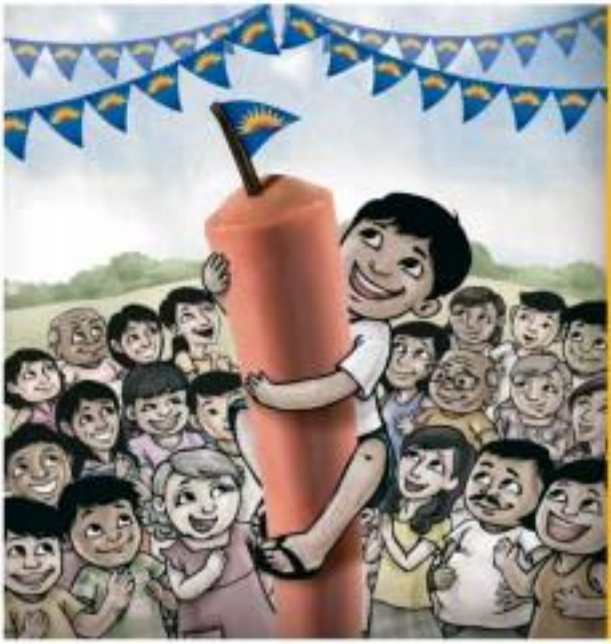
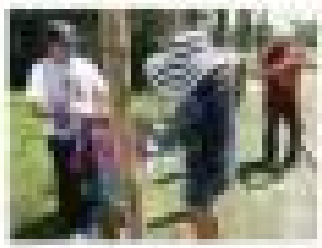
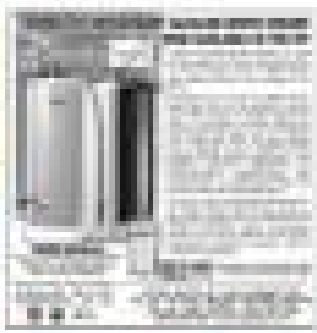


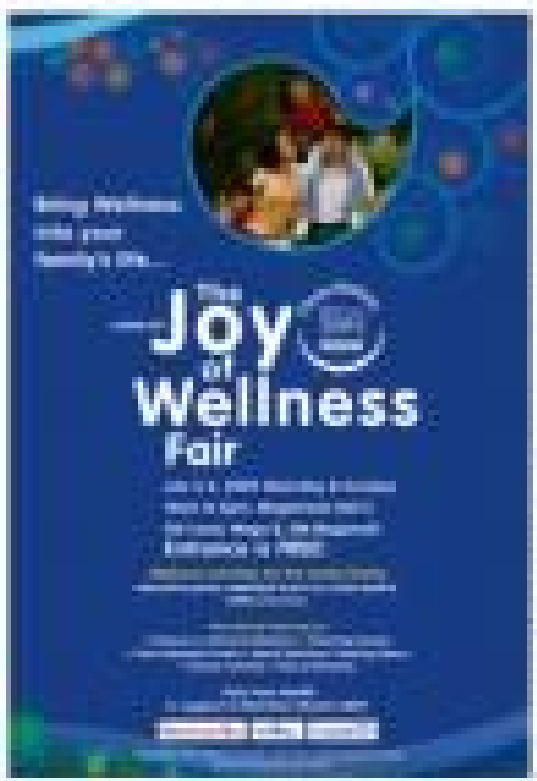
PINAKAMAHABANG SAUSAGE

PARA ARAW-ARAW PARANG FIESTA!

International nature park rises in Palawan







From watercress to brushstrokes

By Karla P. Delgado
Contributor

At the Bencab Museum, an art-writing workshop gathers both lovers of art and lovers of the word

I SHOULD START WITH THE ART BUT I will go straight to the lunch: cold fresh-squeezed lemon juice to offset the opposite, watercress soup. Thin chicken with fruit-laced turmeric rice; sofit hamonon dressed in mayonnaise and cloves, and Benguet tofflin.

Add cultivated conversations and cool air coming in through wide open doors and windows with a view of a lush organic farm and mountain ridge.

And I realize the reason I need to tell you right away about the food and the setting is that it's all intertwined. Our learning, the interaction, the slow food, the succulent life, the art filled spaces, conversations, lectures and assignments at this two-day art-writing workshop at the Bencab Museum, it was one big delicious weekend.

Organized by the Baguio Writers Group and co-sponsored by the Bencab Art Foundation, the workshop brought together 23 participants ranging in age from late teens to late 60s. It was a diverse group of students, gallery owners, painters, teachers, writers, freelance curators and two overwhelming residents of Baguio—over a morning breakfast—whose talent with words soared above low outcome to the workshop in writing fellows.

All were joined by National Artist Benedicto Cabrera and his art-loving partner Artemio Sarthou, trustee of the Bencab Museum.

Day 1 was devoted to two years, with the morning dedicated to a lecture on art writing and criticism by writers art writer, critic and University of Santo Tomas professor Leo Zalueta, and the afternoon devoted to a lesson in art history and appreciation by artist and curator Nonoi Bunal.

Zalueta delivered an engaging overview of art genres and approaches to art, noting the importance of art writing in the artist and the art world, and suggesting that "art writing is not thing what you have to read with the first sense" and "providing subjective responses other your objective evaluations."

Edge talks

Bunal brought his edgy facts to art and his international exposure to the table, emphasizing the pivotal role of video and film in 21st-century art. Herein I were treated to a delectable sampling of art from such movements as Cubism, Dadaism and Surrealism, and to a slideshow of contemporary art from across the globe, from Thailand's Apichatpong Weerasethakul to Germany's Rosa Rooske and Serbia's Marina Abramovich.

The Philippines was well-represented in the morning and afternoon sessions, with both facilitators stressing the need for writers to consider the framework and context of art.

Among the artists whose works were evaluated in their content: Pitching Stanley, Ningot Nawan, Boy Cruzada, Ernest Concepcion, Louie Cordero, Ekera de la Cruz, Lee Diaz, David Medalla, Santi Feliciano and MM Yu.

An hour before the museum's 6 p.m. closing time, participants were given time to wander the galleries of contemporary art, and to choose a work of art to write about for the next day's session.

My assigned on Day 2 with our assignments and were given an hour to explore while the facilitators reviewed our works. When it was time to read our work in front of our peers, we had had time for coffee and a stroll in the museum's lush grounds, as for the speakers in the group, a cigarette is the accompaniment.

Some of us were nervous about sharing our work, but the dominant emotion was probably excitement. We took turns reading our work in front of the artwork in question, while the facilitators and our peers gave feedback.

The writing was distinguished by solid grammar and imaginative language.

Overwhelming feedback

Having a National Artist like Benedicto and an art editor like Zalueta on hand proved very fortunate.

Bunal pointed out certain shortcomings in the writing, such as a lack of consistency in the treatment of the artist, like the technique in the case of a painter. "I proved immediately helpful for all the workshoppers to know the perspective of an artist.

Zalueta's aim to improved with the writing he offered to publish the work. He encouraged participants to send him their write-ups, saying that a city with a vibrant arts scene like Baguio needed better and stronger.

Bunal's comments were overwhelmingly positive, having the overall effect of encouraging participants to write more. He also shared riveting anecdotes from the art world from his time at Goldsmiths at the University of London, where he earned his MA in Fine Arts.

Being exposed to critics art and art history and positive feedback, participants were resting with good feelings at the close of the workshop.

Bunsak expressed a deep satisfaction from seeing "the interest come alive." "Mark lang sa kilala," he quipped.

Organizer Fidela Pascual Perez, president of the Baguio Writers Group, said: "I felt gratified on many times. I literally felt thrilled by what people were saying, and by the exchanges of ideas."

Perez said the group initiated the workshop "as part of our raison d'etre, which is to celebrate Cordillera literature and to motivate the kids of Cordillera to write."

That they certainly did. This year's writing fellows, Freda Dacanay and Abigail Tavalera, were huddled together discussing what they had gotten out of the workshop.

"The lectures opened my mind and exhilarated me," shared Dacanay, a fleeting graduate of Benguet State University.

"I learned you have to have knowledge about what you write," said Tavalera, who is taking a break from teaching literature at University of Baguio.

"Leo emphasized the connection between literature and art," said Carmen Perez, who traveled from Manila for the workshop. "I really enjoyed that."

"That gave me inspiration to venture into a new field of writing," declared silver curls shop owner Isabel Marcoses.

"For me, it's seeing and experiencing what's in the gap between the artist, the artist and his work," said Dinggot Gonzalez Prieto, owner of gallery Remodelistas in Puerto Princesa. "As a gallery owner, to talk about a lot of what I do."

We laughed and chatted over generous and basked in the golden light of the afternoon sun. Some stayed on to take with Bencab to a nearby waterfall. But even after that invigorating hike, we lingered, reluctant to let the day, and the delicious, art-filled weekend to end.

FARA Manuel, Dinggot Prieto, Grace Tabilin, Lachie Marsden, Bea Cabrera (second row) Nonoarie Bunsak, Karla Delgado, Fidela Perez, Abigail Tavalera, Freda Dacanay, Mary Debenen, Leo Zalueta (third row) Axel Tabora, Carmen Perez, Jenny Tan, Lynn Morales, Brenda Baquero, Kathleen Chicko and Tomi Bunal

Samsung Experience Shops located at: 2/F Greenbelt 1 • 2/F Robinsons Ermita • 3/F Ayala Center, Cebu • Eastwood City, Libis • 4/F Robinsons Galleria • G/F SM San Fernando, Pampanga • 1/F Digital Exchange Glorietta • 4/F Limketkai Mall, Cagayan De Oro • 4/F Cyberzone SM Megamall • 1/F SM City Cebu • G/F Cyberzone, SM Mall of Asia • 4/F Cyberzone, SM Manhilao • 1/F SM City Davao • 4/F Cyberzone SM City Manila • 2/F SouthMall SM City Biendad

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Dulaang UP launches 'season on the edge'

DIRECTORS Dennis Samson, Tony Mabesa, Jerrie Jose and Alexander Cortes answer questions from the audience.

TUXQS Finnegan and Andrea Ranay read excerpt from "Lola" while Jeff Hernandez dances.

By Arnelle Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

DULAANG UP (UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines) launches its 34th season on July 2 with a clutch of classic and contemporary plays, original Filipino and foreign, and in two languages.

It is billed as "a season on the edge of reason, identity, transformation and power."

TENOY Quintero reads excerpt from "The Incredible Rise of Arturo Ui."

Can we also say Dulaang UP as an institution is on the edge of something or other?

"Well, we have been accused of being on the edge," remarked Alexander Cortes, Dulaang UP's artistic director, during the recent press conference to announce the forthcoming season.

(The press launch held at Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater in Palma Hall, UP Diliman, was the first in this former company's history.)

"We are challenged by issues, by innovation," Cortes said. "We want to wonder... but it's the first time we put it on the edge[s] to point."

German Romanticism

The emphasis for the season will be on German plays, and on recent Filipino plays.

"For the first time we are emphasizing German Romanticism," noted director Tony Mabesa, who founded the company in 1975. "German plays are very difficult. They are not comedies. It is easy to tell Shakespeare, the tragedies, even Nick Joaquin, but not the Germans."

The season opens on July 1-12 with a swinging of Elmo Gabriel "Bong" Quiling's rare Brecht," which was produced last year with great success, with Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino and Frances Makil-Ignacio giving startling performances.

"Among" presents the Kauffman Queen in her twilight years, as she tries to orient a new young actress who will play her on film, Cortes directs.

Also in July, the UP Playwrights Theater will present two one-act plays: Aeon Jusi's adaptation of "Dead Man," the groundbreaking 1905 short story by Hu Maogon Benitez, and Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio's "Sepang Luca" (July 14-18, 21-25). These will be staged at Teatro Hermogenes Ilagan, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman.

Intense lives

On Aug. 5-21, the Dreimder drama begins with Frank Wedekind's "Lulu," which deals with the complexities of consensual seduction, passion and the resulting anger. During the pass era, young actress Tessa Baradero and Andrea Ranay read lustrous, tragic children from the play, as Anthony Fernandez vividly interpreted them in dance. Director Jaime directs.

"This is all about sex, drama," said Mabesa, chuckling. "We are trying to tell sex."

Heinrich von Kleist's "Amphitryon" (Sept. 9-22), to be directed by Jose Estrella, is a sexual fable that challenges deeply rooted beliefs about love, infidelity and identity.

Also something to look forward to is Friedrich von Schiller's "Mary Stuart" (in English) and "Maria Stuardo" (in Filipino), telling Mary Tudor against Queen Elizabeth I.

Actresses Shamaine Centenera and Jaime Abad Santos, during the press launch, delivered riveting excerpts from the play, with Centenera off to and Abad Santos all for Mabesa directs.

The season closes with a Filipino adaptation, to be directed by Cortes, of Bertolt Brecht's "The Incredible Rise of Arturo Ui," with a reading by Eduardo "Tenoy" Quintero during the launch. This is a timely critique of modern politics with, no doubt, lessons to be drawn for our tainted politics.

In Currimao, a heritage village unlike any other

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

CURIMAO TOWN IS ILOCOS Norte, about 405 kilometers northwest of Manila, is a bucolic place near the northern boundaries of Pasuy where the historic church is—an unofficial Unesco World Heritage site.

On its eastern border is Badoc town, where the Laoag—Jaime Juan, poured Antonio, and the first Ilocano revolution, Manuel...came from.

In between Vintar in Currimao, you find a beach resort like no other, a virtual heritage village reflecting the rich culture of Ilocos Norte. This amazing recreation of a mid-19th-century Ilocos Norte village, sitting on an 10,000-sqm lot, is called Sitio Remedios. It is owned by Dr. Jesus Cuanang, medical director of St. Luke's Hospital.

For the uninvited wanderer, the place is both a refuge from his hectic Manila work or well as his own recollection of childhood memory.

He was the youngest of three children, born in Ilocos town to a couple named Remedios (for whom the resort is named) and Mariano. They were both public school teachers.

Main attraction

Cuanang's memory included leisurely walks and bicycle rides to and from school in Ilocos, reciting the poems of Leopoldo Yabes, playing "Love and Devotion" and "Border Azul" on the family's upright piano, and weekends to Currimao beach.

Sitio Remedios' main attraction are its rows of vintage-style houses: homes owned after various Ilocos towns: Badoc House, Batac Bungalow, Bulan Bodeville, Bulay Parish, Bulay Pilapil, Bulay Ilocano and Bulay San Nicolas.

A room in Bulay Pilapil is named after pianist Cecile Licad, who inaugurated the place in May 2008. "I still can't forget the night of Cecile playing a Mozart Fantasy with a view of a tranquil Currimao sea in the background.

In another house is the Marcelo-Bulilan mansion of "El Filibusterismo" memory of Don Antonio Ricarte. In the living room on the second floor, you see portraits of Jaime and Antonio Luna.

Bulay Pilapil also has the upright piano that used to occupy the doctor's treasured house in Bulan. The house cannot compete with his parents' wedding picture, retouched and given a new look by Botanik.

Rescuing houses

The idea for a heritage resort started on Dec. 25, 2005, when on his birthday Cuanang found dead about a place where he could nurture and preserve Ilocos heritage while reliving bittersweet

Sitio Remedios recreates a quaint Ilocano town in the 1950s

memories of his childhood.

CECILE Licad plays Mozart Fantasy in Currimao.

Currimao Cuanang was architect Rizz Medilles, who gave him the next day a sketch of his idea for the place. They set about rescuing old Ilocano houses about to be demolished to restore parts of the province so as to preserve them at Sitio Remedios.

Cuanang then used his prized collection of family heirlooms, antique furniture, locally woven rattan frames and paintings from his Manila pad-bons as memorabilia for interior décor. The result is an evocative replica of a quaint Ilocano community in the '50s.

"What I have done is just preserve my Ilocano heritage for all the world to see," said Cuanang.

The resort has become a virtual cultural center on this part of Ilocos Norte. After Licad opened it with a recital in 2008, Raul Sunico and violinist Dulce Bedjora followed. Historical lectures are also conducted in a hall called Centro Ilocos de Juan Luna.

Everything you encounter in Sitio Remedios is part and parcel of Cuanang's memory of his parents and of a genteel, long-gone Ilocano era.

Do you exchange emails or ideas?
NOKIA
Connecting People

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN BY JOE HERESCO

PUGAD BABOY BY PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVE MOTS BY ELIZABETH HOWELLS

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PAPPAS AND

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

ATCHOO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANDE HERAN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't worry about working hard now. Instead, worry that the amount you're doing is not enough. Only then you'll start to see the benefits of all your efforts.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Many of you feel that you're not getting enough out of life. Perhaps it's because you're not putting enough into it. Use this kind of thinking to your advantage.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You are still trying to find a way to express your true self. You need to feel secure about where you live. Have no fear that this will happen. It's just a matter of time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Any changes or new mental moves are compatible with the rising of your sun. Whatever happens, your daily surroundings are going to change in one way or another.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a time when you are looking to reach out to others. Be careful, though. It's important to discover what really matters to the person you're with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Any other gaming we do must be done in the past few years, you're in an entirely new ballgame. Don't take no more than your hands. Keep your head down and your powder dry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a time of letting go. Any and all attachments to places, people and possessions. Eventually, this no loss. (You're letting go—it's what is no longer relevant.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your challenge now is to learn how to work with others and at the same time, investigate your own independence and integrity. It's quite a juggling act!

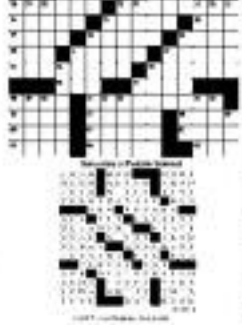
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is the time of decision for your career. Whatever you do, don't stand still. Keep working on your life, and you will move steadily and when it will. Reward accordingly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a time of preparations. Travel, education and study of any kind will help you achieve your goals. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This year's theme is "Balance." Your personal and professional lives require some balancing. You definitely do not want to be out of balance. Get back on your even-keeled self, and you can handle it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Difficulties will arise—especially in school—should you not be prepared. Don't have been studying. Hopefully, you will get the worst this year so you can move on.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	3	2				5	8	
	7			9		5	4	
				3	7	8		
	7						9	
	4			1	5	7	3	
	1						2	
				8	3	4		
	9			5		1	2	
	1	5					6	3

Difficulty Level: ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	8	6	4	2	1	7	5	3
3	2	4	9	6	7	6	1	8
7	5	1	3	8	6	4	9	2
2	6	9	1	3	5	9	4	7
1	9	3	7	6	2	8	6	5
4	7	5	8	9	2	3	6	1
6	3	2	5	8	4	1	7	9
8	4	7	2	1	9	5	3	6
5	1	9	6	7	3	8	2	4

FROM left: Arvanee Bradley's "Stars," Pena's "Skin Deep," Repertory Philippines' "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino"

Jojit Lorenzo's magnificent artifice in the service of theater

By Pilar Quirino
Contributor

THE DANCES ARE AT once magical yet disturbing.

A long scarlet drapes his appareon clenching in the arms of a nymph. It is not clear if she is saving him or pushing him deeper into her depths.

A group of Mad Hita warriors, confronting an unseen enemy whose body legs and hooves have fence their apprehension, sig-ify-ing grouping of Chinese countries, their clothes sometimes giving them the appearance of Tang dynasty calligraphy.

The images could be fashion photographs. Or they could stand, tightly and singularly, as artistic statements.

But the images contained up by photographer-artist Jojit Lorenzo are, first and foremost, publicity stills (though still they seldom end for theater productions. No the past two years, his work has, slowly and magically transformed the way plays and musicals are publicized and marketed in the country.

JOJIT Lorenzo

His work has, slowly and magically, transformed the way plays and musicals are publicized and marketed in the country

SANTIPAALA Theater's "Walang Alon"

Imaginative takes

It may be right to say that Lorenzo, at 50, has updated the look of the theater publicity shot, and helped to change the public's perception of the state of local theater.

After seeing his work, the once-dimensional "posed" photo, info (with the frozen expressions, stuffed movements and constant smiling) that the public used to associate with theater productions now look sadly static and dated.

Lorenzo has done that with his own imaginative takes on today's text and his mastery of digital enhancements.

But of all, is a development that mirrors today's democratic movement of young artists and directors at home in both English and Filipino material, Lorenzo is now the photographer of choice for companies as diverse as Repertory Philippines, Tanghalang Pilipino, Pena, Dulaang UP, Adarna Productions, Bahaygang Gantimpala and Philippine Opera Company.

His intuitive takes in visualizing a text and creating a succinct image stems from his own background as a theater actor.

He began acting for Bahaygang Gantimpala after going through workshops in 1989 after graduating from La Salle, where he majored in Computer Technology.

His skills as an actor and his deeper understanding of the way a play works became honed through 18 years of participation in several productions. Like most of today's young theater artists, he did the rounds of Bahaygang Gantimpala, Dtic and Tanghalang Pilipino while holding a day job at DBPC.

He remembers pleasure of the plays he was cast in and the standard routine of posing against a black curtain, enacting a scene until the photographer shouted, "Freeze!"

"Because is all about movement and motion and emotion, I was tinkering with the camera in the time, and I thought there must be a way to put some motion, some depth into the images," he says.

Honesty, integrity

His elder brother, the respected photographer Jerel Lorenzo, helped him get a start in photography, teaching him about the use of available light.

His colleagues in theater would come him on photographer "partly because they wanted to encourage me, partly because I was available and cheaper."

"Bayan Jerel taught me a lot about the need for honesty and integrity in the work. And by looking at the works of painters like Cirilo Bautista and Dante Adria, I learned about the use of light to make a photograph more dramatic."

But the cut of digital enhancement in his own work came with Bulaang UP's "Once upon a Dulin," last year's tragedy take on the nursery tale by Rene Villanueva, directed by Bonnie Tan.

"Bonnie is a collaborative effort, and I always rely on the director's own takes on a text. Bonnie is also a choreographer, and his vision for the play had a lot of dance and movement."

The resulting folio was, quite simply, a breakthrough in theater photography. Scenes in particular were dramatized. Instead, a set of evocative images with actors floating under water, among clouds, in ethereal landscapes, their expressions ranging from sadness to expansion.

Best of all, the photos captured the mood of the new production and put the audiences in the proper frame to appreciate Bautista' devised adaptation of the Bulagata komedya.

"Bonnie's use followed by Repertory Philippines' "Hamlet," directed by Ana Abad-Santos. In keeping with her postmodern take on Shakespeare's tortured prince, he set the actors against a bleak landscape, in attitudes of defiance and aggression that crossed the road paths he passes in the court of Elsinore.

For Pena's musical, "Skin Deep," he created the ironic pregnant image of actress-singer May Bayot contemplating her own surgically enhanced chest.

For two separate productions of "Medea," one by Rep, the other by Tanghalang Pilipino, he came up with two entirely different takes, one stark and elegant in its calligraphic nuances, the other profane with clouds and vibrant colors. Both were unfashionably Dionne, albeit of different periods and aesthetic sensibilities.

For Tanghalang Pilipino's "Waiting for Godot," he played with the stereotypical images of the clown crowd, recreating Vladimir and Estragon as two melancholy skinny street tumbleys in sands and pervasive gloom.

Actors working with him on a shoot have come expecting to be made to dance, contort, move constantly while perched on platforms and ladders. When he has enough sure images, he unleashes himself in his workshop like an aptly named Pharaohhound to contort the finished images on his laptop.

It's genius as that having Lorenzo confined as a photographer for any production but he owns a kind of status symbol among theater companies. He readily shares is part of this year's output on his laptop.

For Bayan upcoming "Sweeney Todd," he shows rare portraits of Audrey Dawson and Menchu Lauchengco-Pido. They are not so much photographs as they are paintings in the lurid style of old Hollywood horror flicks.

Apt companion

Still being tweaked with an images for Tanghalang Pilipino's "A Streetcar Named Desire," Dulaang UP's "Lako" (in which he returns as a stage actor to the role of Jack the Ripper).

Once done, the images are displayed on his webpage, www.jojitlorenzo.com. The images are tagged on the Facebook walls and friendpics accounts of actors and directors following a season of Tanghalang Pilipino's "Monkey Island Diaries

Eiga Sai '09 reels off July 2 at Shang Plaza

"ALWAYS—SUNSET on Third Street"

IN CELEBRATION OF PHILIPPINES-JAPAN Friendship Month, the Japan Foundation, Manila, in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and UP Film Institute, presents Eiga Sai '09 ("film festival" in Japanese).

The festival of Japanese contemporary cinema will kick off July 2, at the Shang Cineplex Cinema 3, for the month-long celebration.

Eiga Sai '09 aims to bolster further the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan by consistently providing an opportunity for Filipinos to enhance the understanding and appreciation of Japanese arts and culture employed in this medium. This year's offering brings together seven contemporary films and one animated film in 35mm format.

An invitational screening of "Always—Sunset on Third Street" (Always San-chome no yuhi, 2005) by director Yamazaki Takashi will be held July 2, 7 p.m., at Shangri-La Plaza Cinema 3, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Other films to be featured are "Memories of Matsuko" (Kamome Matsuko no koibo, 2006), directed by Nakashima Tetsuya; "Kamome Diner" (Kamome shokudo, 2006), by Ogigami Naoko; "Memories of Kosmetic" (Ashita no kioku, 2005), by Tsutsumi Yukihiko; "The Milkwoman" (Bouku dokushin sonyo, 2005), by Ogata Akira; "It's Over—An Angel is Coming on a Bicycle" (Tenshi kitsuri, 2004), by Nozawa Reiichi, Tiny Tokkiro (2006), by Ishikawa Jun; and the sole animated film "Island Game" (2006), by Masaaki Yuasa.

All films will be shown with English subtitles. Admission is free. Screening venues are at Shangri-La Plaza Cinema 3 (July 2-12) and UP Film Institute (Aug. 14-20).

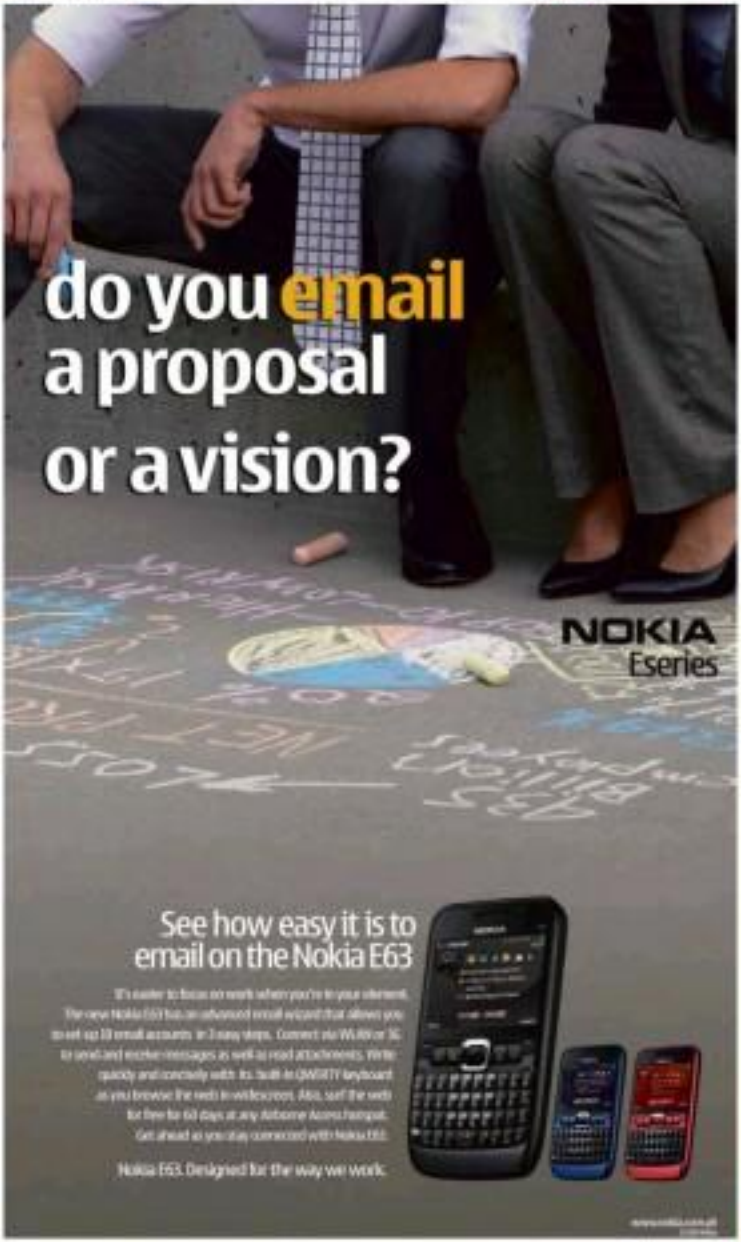
Eiga Sai '09 will also have provincial screenings that will commence in Gaisano South Grimalt, Davao, July 16-19; Ayala Center, Cebu, July 28-Aug. 2; and Ilagan Center Mall, Ilagan, Aug. 7-11.

For detailed screening schedules and inquiries, please access the Japan Foundation, Manila, website www.jfmo.org.ph; or call the JFM telephone numbers (+632) 81-3631 to 38.

"RAMPOME Diner"

"MINO Show"

"TURN Over—An Angel Is Coming on a Bicycle"



"NATIVE Dance," by Rico Lascano

Lascano in Singapore group exhibit

RICO LASCANO'S "WATER DANCE" paintings are buoyant and filling with pools of aqueous greens when blossoming into interpreted floral formations.

His works, along with those by a few other international artists, are on exhibit July 2-23 at Momentum Arts Gallery, Singapore.

Meanwhile, Soon Lai Wai celebrates the beauty of a lotus garden in bright, vibrant hues. Dragica Milanovic captures fauna in a style best described as visual poetry.

The "Scent of a Garden" exhibit is a lovely celebration of nature's awesome landscapes and flora, reflecting the artists' passion for them and the spirituality of their subjects.

Visit www.momentumarts.com

"LILLYBIRA Rosella," by Dragica Milanovic

"MY LOTUS Garden," by Soon Lai Wai

Editor Ramon G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE
■ Is Pattinson the next Depp? Johnny says, 'Good luck' OnlyInHollywood /F4

'Every young woman and gay wanted to be Farrah'

IN THIS 1977 file photo originally released by ABC, Farrah Fawcett-Majors, from the series "Charlie's Angels," is shown. Fawcett died Thursday, June 25 in a Los Angeles hospital. She was 62.

by Marinel R. Cruz

FARRAH FAWCETT'S TOUsled hairstyle was the most requested look when Jessup "JP" Serrano began his hair-and-makeup business in the 1980s.

"The request came from all social classes, especially teens. They all wanted to look like her," said Serrano, who opened his first salon in 1981 at the H. Stha Aparicio in Cubao, Quezon City.

Fawcett, sex symbol and 1970s TV star ("Charlie's Angels") died Thursday (Friday in Manila) after a three-year battle with cancer. She was 62.

Her iconic hairstyle—created by Vidal Sassoon (California) stylist Allen Edwards—was sought by women everywhere in the world. It became so popular that, until now, it's known simply as The Farrah, according to www.thefarrah.com. It even made a recent comeback.

Hairdresser Ricky Reyes shared Serrano's view: "In the 80s, every young woman and homosexual wanted to be Farrah Fawcett. She was one of the most influential women in the world of style, along with Twiggy and Mia Farrow."

While The Farrah may appear carefree and easy, Serrano said, it's actually difficult to maintain. "I don't recommend it to clients who have a very busy lifestyle."

The cut, Serrano said, should be "soft, feathery and not blunt." The curls could be achieved with a set of "hot rollers" or a blow dryer, he added.

"Filipinas are naturally pageant-y," said Reyes. "But the real doesn't look good with black hair. You have to have brown hair, at least." He added that the modern interpretation of Fawcett's hairstyle has curls that are "more relaxed."

In a recent pictorial for a hair magazine, Serrano refused, he was instructed to recreate The Farrah. "I was also told on the contemporary hairstyles popularized by Kate Hudson and Victoria Beckham. My point here," he stressed, "is that Farrah's look will never go out of style."

SICKT Reyes: "But the look does not work for black hair."

TF: "And it's not easy to maintain."

E-mail: mrcruz@inquirer.com.ph

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GALLERIA

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
6 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
7 DRAG ME TO HELL
8 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
9 DIG NIGHT
10 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

ERMITA

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 [illegible]
6 DIG NIGHT
7 [illegible]

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
6 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
7 DRAG ME TO HELL
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2

NOVALICHES

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS
4 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123

PIONEER

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

STA. ROSA

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
3 DRAG ME TO HELL
4 HOUSE

LIPA

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
4 HOUSE

DASMARINAS

1 DRAG ME TO HELL
2 FROM WITHIN
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

IMUS

1 DRAG ME TO HELL
2 FROM WITHIN
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

STARMILLS

1 DRAG ME TO HELL
2 HOUSE
3 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
6 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

ANGELES

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
3 HOUSE
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

TACLOBAN

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 DRAG ME TO HELL

BACOLOD

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
5 DRAG ME TO HELL
6 RESERVE

ILOILO

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 DRAG ME TO HELL
6 TERMINATOR: SALVATION

FELIX Bacca in "Engkwentro"

Gangster pic in indie fest

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN to me," young actor Zyrus Dreamgonzalo said of the large cut in his right arm. Even a bride stabbed by ex-actor Ronald Montesco.

The two were filming a fight scene for the action movie "Engkwentro" when the knifelike bargained Zyrus' cut was three inches long. "It was an accident. I was given immediate medical help. I'm OK now," Dreamgonzalo told InQUIRER Entertainment over dinner last week.

Dreamgonzalo plays Tyrone, leader of a notorious gang called Batang Elkris in "Engkwentro." The film follows a day in the lives of Rafael (Felix Bacca) and his brother Raymond (Mel Acuna), who find themselves on opposite sides of a gang war. Richard is the leader of Batang Elkris, and Ernesto' antihero.

Death squad

To get back at Rafael, Tyrone orders his men (one of whom is played by Jeffrey Quinto) to kill his own brother. Meanwhile, the infamous City Death Squad catches up with all of them. This vigilante group is widely believed to be backed by the city government, headed by Mayor Deddy Suarez (Gabo Sd Castillo), and responsible for many unsolved murders of gangsters.

"Engkwentro" is no stranger to film fests: Glen Gonzalo Hidalgo's acknowledged Film Festival, which runs from July 17 to 26 at the CCP in Roxas City.

Rigor Dedoro, director of "Engkwentro" and the youngest to join the film fest at 21, said he's unsure why he was picked from among 500 actors who auditioned for the movie.

Since, apparently, was Dedoro's top pick for the role. He hired "Gangland" star-turned-director for the key to play Felix's brother. Dedoro explained, "We were afraid to start filming when we found Daniel as our only feature opportunity for the CCP."

Inspired by docu

Dedoro said the film was inspired by a documentary he made two years ago on two Gothers running away from the so-called Davao Death Squad.

The director was quick to point out that the movie is not specifically about the shadowy Davao vigilante group.

He said that the film proved difficult to realize. "It was easy to get funds for this kind of story. Also, we had to cosplay over 200 actors. Rehearsals were tough. We shot some scenes in Davao but it was not a good option in terms of logistics and security. We had to build a set in Makati and Navotas."

The director related that "Engkwentro" was filmed in real-time. "It's filmed like a play. Realistic and treatment. That makes it hard. The actors had to memorize everything. The production team was all around the set anyway," he explained.

After its premiere in Dumaguete, Dedoro said he has set his sights on a nationwide screening. "The goal is to show this to as many people as possible. We want them to know about the current situation. We want it known that we blame a society that overlooks this kind of killings," he said. "I, screening in Davao would be good, too."

E-mail: marcruz@inquirer.com.ph

Still mourning...

From page A1

expenses when they had to fly back here for their relatives's funeral.

Now I wish I could go to the wake. I take comfort in the thought that MJ is in a better place where nobody will judge him anymore. I hope people will not dwell on the scandals that he got embroiled in.

Instead, we should cherish the way his music has touched us. As MJ once said, "I hope people will look at me also as a person and not just as a personality."

Thank you, Michael, for coloring my world with your music. You live inside my heart. Go on, moon-walking with the angels and heal the world that just can't stop loving you.

E-mail: [illegible]

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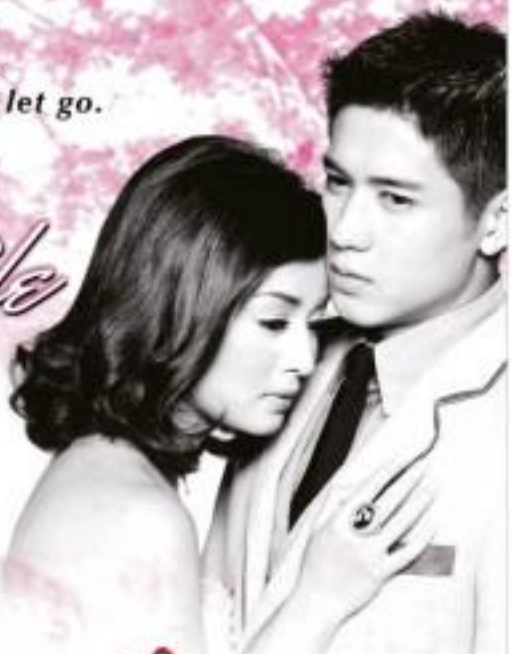

Bago mag-24 Oras sa GMA Telebabad

LEARNING

Editor Chela Bancal Formoso

Learning to be instruments of God's work

By Dan Martin Gonoz, OSB
Contributor

In this special ministry, it is important to be authentic in one's personal life and a true follower of Christ

A FORMATORS' Institute at Transfiguration (Fac), religious formators are always reminded that their work is not just about a role, a function or a ministry. It is about becoming. It is about who the formator and the formand become in the long process of religious formation.

In a relic sense, formators are members of a religious community or seminary who have been assigned to accompany and prepare those who will embrace religious vows through different stages, such as postulancy, novitiate and juniorate. But, in a general sense, everyone in a community is a formator since all in the community journey together and therefore affect one another's growth spiritually, psychologically and morally. Nowadays, some lay people recognized for their superior may be considered formators.

Formands, on the other hand, are the newly entered lay persons in a religious community or seminary who will go through at least seven years of formation under the care of more mature members of the community before they make their final vows.

When the Missionary of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, started Fiat in 2003, it mainly response to a need among formators for some kind of training and support in their very delicate work.

The challenge and joy of ministering in an ogawa of formation are in being witness to the growth in wisdom and hope of persons in this special ministry.

As instruments of God's work, formators say they, too, need personal care. In helping those under formation to tend through the community in mature responsibility for their growth in Christ, formators need to develop necessary skills.

The recent Fiat 2009 was a response in that need, offering "helping skills for religious formators."

The event, envisioned by the community to be an annual offering in the summer, was attended by 25 religious formators from different religious congregations, including the Order of St. Augustine, Franciscans and Franciscan Conventuals, Benedictines, Redemptorists, Daughters of Divine Zeal, Franciscan Handmaids of the Lord, Society of the Divine Word, Mission Society of the Philippines and Eucharistic Healers of Mary.

PRIEST formators celebrate Mass

DISCUSSION groups at work

Good mix

Participants were a good combination of those beginning to explore the ministry and seasoned formators who wished to enrich further their knowledge and refine their skills.

This year's facilitators were Msgr. Ramon Mercullio, head of the Commission on the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Isacy Quezon Baga, and known moral psychologist, and the author who was Fiat coordinator.

The week-long seminar-workshop aimed to help religious formators develop skills in designated referrals to enable them to help formands arrive at an expanded perspective, greater understanding, acknowledgment and acceptance of significant personal experiences.

Topics included "The Role of Formators," "The Basic Helping Skills," "Helping Formands

Ronald McDonald House Charities Commits to Zero Non-readers in Public Schools

The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) with its banner program Bright Minds Read (BMR) celebrated a milestone with its first batch of elementary graduates. BMR, with its mission to eradicate illiteracy and champion beginning reading among public school children started in 2003 with 14 pilot schools and 4,200 Grade 1 pupils in NCR. RMHC partnered with the Department of Education (DepEd) to pack BMR in public schools nationwide through reading toolkits and curricula. With the end of school year 2008-2009, the Grade 1 pupils that started the program have graduated elementary.

Through the years, BMR has recorded a significant contribution in the downward statistics of non-readers. Based on the 2002 Philippine Informal Reading Inventory (PHIL-IRI), 40% are non-readers after Grade 1 while at the end of the school year, PHIL-IRI Pre-Test and Post-test results indicated that only 1.67% of the total NCR elementary population are non-readers.

In celebration of this remarkable development, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was presented with the first BMR valedictorian and salutatorian graduates of the 14 BMR pilot schools in NCR. Kenneth E. Yang, President of RMHC declared: "We are confident that through a consistent and focused program like BMR, we can achieve zero non-readers in our country. We at RMHC and DepEd will continue our commitment and further expand the reach of the BMR program."

Playgrounds for the MIND

Editor Arlen Espinosa

Member Schools

LPU CBA enlists top executives

THE DEAN OF THE PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITY (LPU) College of Business Administration (CBA) hired recently a powerhouse of industry-experienced professors for academic year 2009-2010.

Professors Alfredo M. Herrera, Leodegario B. Mabini and Dominic T. Corcuera Jr are all experienced business practitioners who are experts in their fields.

Herrera graduated cum laude from De la Salle University with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Science - major in Business Management, minor in Marketing Management. He has over 30 years of experience in the fields of marketing, sales, operations, and general management here and abroad. He has held top positions in Quaker Oats Asia's Philippine office, Nestl Dreamy Foods Philippines, Inc., Sterling's Consumer Health Division Ltd, and San Miguel Corporation. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Makati South and Management Association of the Philippines. At present, he is think and chief executive officer of Monteviro Beverages (ABC), a local company that is focusing on the development of homegrown brands.

Mabini is currently the president of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers Foundation (Panaf), board secretary of Bosa, and director for marketing and promotions of Cebu Pacific. He is an alumnus of the Lyceum of the Philippines University with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Having attended numerous trainings and seminars here and abroad, he has held various managerial positions in companies such as Delta Motor Sales Corporation, Toyota Motor Philippines, Steelhouse Management and Consultancy and Berry Ads Philippines Inc.

Corcuera holds the degree of Doctor of Management major in Human Resource Management and Development from the Distance Learning of Hong Kong Institute of Human Resources. An exemplary business consultant, he has completed courses such as ISO 9000/2005 Connection Auditing Training Course and ISO 9000:2000 Registered Auditor/Lead Auditor Training Course, as well as Human Resources Training and Development Consulting in Han Chai Institute of Management in Hong Kong. He served as dean of the College of Business and Economics of the Divine Mercy College and the College of Computer and Information Technology of Southern Mindanao Cooperative Colleges. Prior to joining the academe, he was the manager of Personnel Benefits Evaluation International Inc, and CCS Computer Sales and Training Center.

UE-TTKPI SCHOLARS TEAMBUILDING EXERCISE

The University of the East (UE) Guidance and Counseling Office recently organized a teambuilding workshop for the UE-Can Tao Ben Foundation Incorporated Inc. (TTKPI) scholars. The workshop was held the day-long but filled exercise a very useful learning experience. The teambuilding workshop, in coordination with the UE Total Student Care policy, aimed to help the newer peer support addition student complete, and develop team spirit to cope with and maintain the students' scholarships. According to UE Director for Guidance and Counseling Office (GCO) division Lorelie R. Ulmas, the participants worked together to accomplish various activities that enhanced their goal-setting skills and camaraderie. Photo shows team-building participants UE TTKPI scholars Jedidiah Sanchez, Daniel S. Bulay, Ivy Joyce L. de Pedro, Charles Julius D. Kapulungan, Celli Ray G. Lucero, Natalie Theresa S. Ly, Kimberly G. Magalso, Ruth Anne A. Miguel, Hazel Ann Rosales, Jonathan L. Sedrick, Sheila A. Sy and Karel Joyce V. Vivas with facilitators director for the GCO, MSI, UE Manila CCO chief Rosemar P. Cate (front, 3rd from right) and Rosemarie C. Mang (front, extreme right).

CISCO SKILLS COMPETITION WINNERS

In the recent Cisco Skills Competition Mindanao Cluster, the team from AMA Davao was the top prize and represented the Mindanao region in the National Cisco Skills Competition in March. Photo shows the winning team. Ear-rel Mae Ramonan, Arnold Baldano Jr. Ryan Ramano, Rian-rex Bustong (coach) and Sheila Lisa Igdanes.

CBU STUDENT BAGS 3RD PLACE IN CHINESE PROFICIENCY COMPETITION

CEU MBA Management student Hanh Anne Tang, tagged third place in the 6th Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition held at the Riviera de Manila University last May 15, which was organized by the Confucius Institute at the Ateneo de Manila University in cooperation with the Confucius Institute at the AdMU and the Philippine Chinese Education Research Center. The competition, with the theme "Fun with Chinese, Hope of Success", aimed to further expand China's positive influence on international Chinese teaching and stimulate the enthusiasm of students to learn Chinese. The two-part competition was sponsored with an extemporaneous speech contest then followed by a cultural talent competition. Photo shows (2nd from right) Tang with CEU professors and assistant coach Dr. Margarita Joy Chua-Chua Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition 2010 3rd place Ram Angel Tan Embanag of the people of China Labour Economics Chen Ying Shan and CEU Foreign Languages Department Head and coach Dr. Evelyn Chua-Chua.

STI, Trumpets partner for STI Center of Arts

SCHOOLS OF DIRECTIONS FROM STI COLLEGE AND TRUMPETS GATHERED together recently in an intimate thanksgiving luncheon for the new STI Center of Arts in STI College Global City. The event marked the partnership of STI College and Trumpets in providing performing arts classes. STI's president and CEO Monsito V. Jacinto awarded guests, who were given a token of the event: "This is indeed a Day of Thanksgiving as we witness the marriage of arts and technology. We are thankful that a respected institution such as Trumpets has partnered with us for the STI Center of Arts," he said. In his keynote, Jacinto Ramos, Trumpets president, expressed how he remained grateful for the triumphs that Trumpets enjoyed over the years. "When we were just starting Pinoy Idol, we have seen many similar concepts in how we have grown by leaps and bounds. For this partnership, I remain to be in awe and thankful that we share the same vision with STI."

2009 PRC's Chemist of the Year

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS COMMISSION HONORED DR. LUNA C. Lagunzad as 2009 Chemist of the Year in a banquet last June 10 in Manila Hotel. Dr. Lagunzad is a faculty member of the UP Institute of Chemistry (UP-IC) for the last 26 years. She is the former head of the Physical Chemistry Academic Group that spearheaded the Integrated Laboratories for Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Mini-Chemistry in the enhanced UP Chemistry curriculum. She is a recipient of the Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies (PFCS) for Bypass. Through her initiatives as member of the DOST Technical Committee on Chemistry, Quantum Chemistry was added to the undergraduate curriculum, laying the foundation for research and putting UP at par with other universities. The UPIC and the UP Chemistry Alumni Foundation lauded Dr. Lagunzad's award and notable achievements as a UP faculty member, author and researcher in her profession.

Testimonials for Dr. Benitez at PWU

FORMER SENATOR AND NOW BOARD CHAIR OF THE PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S University Dr. Helena Z. Benitez was feted with a pre-natal testimonial and musical program to mark her 90th birthday on June 27 next June 20 at the Conrado Benitez Hall, Taft campus, Manila. Hosting the milestone event was the Doctor of Education (Ed.D) Alumni Chapter headed by its president, Dr. Lulu Tirey, in collaboration with the Philippine Home Economics Foundation Inc. It kicked off with a thanksgiving mass with Fr. Jerry Orbos, S.J. as main celebrant, assisted by PWU chaplain Fr. Antonio Pascual. Highlight of the event were the testimonials delivered by Dr. Benitez's associates in various cause she had espoused and made lasting contributions to the programs and development of the country. The speakers were Sec. Lito Atienza (environment/habitat), Imelda R. Marcos (arts and culture), Amb. Rosario Manalo (international/diplomatic service), lawyer Sharlto Paras (community service and women's causes), Dr. Velun Tallarayan (education), Amelia Tomotlo Alonzo (legislation and government service) and Dr. Manuel Abe (representing the PWU board of trustees).

AdNU alumni are mayoral awardees

LAST JUNE 19, AS PART OF BAGATS 61ST CHARTER ANNIVERSARY CELEbration, the 2009 Mayoral Awards were given at the Villa Caceres Hotel to honor the city's most outstanding citizens. Ms. Sheena Howard and Dr. Rolin Ramos were among the Mayoral Recognition Awardees. Both were given the award for their outstanding service and performance as their elected endeavors that significantly contributed to the city's growth. Honor, and glory. However, CEO alumnus and AdMU 49 batch member, graduated cum laude doctorate and was conferred the St. Ignatius of Loyola Gold Medallion, among other awards. Ramos, director of the College Guidance Office, was conferred the rank of professor last Feb. 29. The Alcalde de Bagat University community congratulated the two awardees for being great role models of excellence in the City of Bagat.

University of Batangas partners with Korea's Yeungnam University

THE TWO GIANT UNIVERSITIES SIGNED A MOA LAST MAY 28 FOR A one-year Student Exchange Program that will start on the first school year for 2009. This program aims to expose their respective students to the academic and cultural setting of each university. The primary goal of the Korean students is to learn English as a second language. This will also orient the cultural orientation of the students as they will be mainstreamed into various activities in the campus. Before one can be chosen as exchange student, he/she has to undergo a screening and secure a recommendation from the university president. Present during the MOA signing were Dr. Hernando "Nani" B. Perez, CEO president, Mayor Alexis Rufus B. Mayo (VP for student and external affairs), Seung Mo Jung (Yeungnam's VP for international programs), Sanghwan Lee (manager of international cooperation) and Sam Soo Kim (VP for student career development).

Miriam College welcomes the coming of DAWN

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE DEVELOPMENT Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), regional network of women scholars and activist researchers from the economic south, finds its new home inside the lush Miriam College campus along Katipunan Avenue. Its launch was celebrated recently in simple ceremonies attended by representatives from the global network's member countries.

"Miriam College is not new to DAWN. It has been the network's base in Southeast Asia since 1988," says Josefa Francisco, general secretary-coordinator of DAWN and chair of the International Studies Department at Miriam College. "DAWN is proud to be associated with a school whose mission is the empowerment of young women. Most of its key founding and current members are also in the academe or research institution. As such, the network is naturally drawn to academic institutions, especially one such as Miriam College, whose feminist scholarship is taken seriously," she adds.

DAWN works globally and regionally on various offending concerns such as political economy of globalization, political economy and social transformation, sustainable livelihoods, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Its secretariat, Miriam College's coordinators with board members, executive committee members, associates and affiliates of DAWN who are based in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific. The secretariat also recommends multi-support, friends and like-minded groups in the economic South and East.

UNVEILING OF NEW TORCH MONUMENT BY PMU GLOBAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Congressman and Bro Padolfo Plaza of Iligan del Sur (center) and Philippine Normal University president lawyer Lizgardo B. Bunlar led the unveiling of the new Torch monument, a project of PNU alumni abroad led by Dr. Rosita Noel, president of the PMU Global Alumni Association, Inc. based in Japan (2nd from right) posing behind the monument located at the corner of Taft Avenue and Ayala Boulevard in Manila. The Torch monument is a symbol of PNU's quest for truth, excellence, and leadership in education.

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Parents as 'lovable authoritarians'

PROPER PARENTing is authoritatively loving and lovingly authoritative, says American family psychologist John Rosemond.

Parents are not their children's peers—they are leaders in the home, he said. He, however, does not believe in a truly democratic relationship or home between parents and their children—not as long as the kids live at home and rely on parents for their needs.

The boy can avoid travel, but research affirms it is better. When the family involves several children, they may become friends, believing that the world exists to serve them. They become easily frustrated, and cannot cope well with problems.

"Children have the right to find out early in their lives that their parents exist not to make them happy, but to offer them the opportunity to learn the skills they need to eventually make [themselves happy]," Rosemond says. "Children have the right to learn to be grateful for what they receive. They have, they have the right to receive all of what they 'truly need and not very little of what they simply want."

Rosemond is a best-selling author of 13 books. He has a column that appears in more than 300 newspapers in the United States. The executive director of the Center for Affirmative Parenting in North Carolina, he has been happily married for 36 years, with "four happy married children, and six, soon-to-be grandchildren."

His 6-Point Plan for Raising Happy, Healthy Children, Rosemond's first book published in the 1980s, has become a classic. Now he has updated the work, but his principles are timeless.

He talks about why children need plan and exercise to stimulate creativity, imagination, and self-reliance, and why parents need to limit television viewing time, computer use and video games.

Most of all, he shows how parents can teach the three Rs (respect, responsibility, reasonableness), the given sense that the world is not how to deal with tantrums, addictions, bullying, how to create natural, sequential, enhance feeling success in the kindful.

When should a relationship end? Rosemond gives clear.

"When both parties have very different goals for life and marriage, or significant incompatibility issues.

• When it seems impossible for you to be kind.

• When both parties have unhealthy problems, or at least one party has deep personal problems that the other cannot deal with.

• When one party is not ready for marriage.

"Love Decisions" by Ronald Harvey is available at DMF Ltd. in cities. Contact Sheba D. Pelicano at 831.6005 loc 304 or e-mail: SheDelPel@yahoo@DMFLtd.com.

Love decisions

When my students ask for help in their romantic relationships, I often find myself wishing that their parents would talk candidly about these things. Some women students say their fathers are too shy to talk about these issues. They may be right.

Both concerned about dating, romance and marriage should read Donald Harvey's "Love Decisions."

Keep it together

How do busy moms cope with family, school, work, etc? How do they keep it together? My former student Francois Severino (now Bro) used to work for a bank and an organization of development company, but, with six children, she decided to leave the corporate world and become a full-time homemaker.

"I thought that being a housewife would give me more free time to relax and enjoy my children, but staying home didn't seem to make my life easier," Francis says. "I felt frustrated for having to take care of the children and the household 24/7. I felt that my day was just filled with endless chores."

Francis soon realized that "running a home is a lot like running a corporation." Both clearly "life must run with a mission and a vision, and set our priorities and goals. There we define our responsibilities, do work projections, we organize, we streamline processes and procedures, check the quality of our work, and find ways to improve the system. Depending on our needs, we may hire outside help. When needed, we have to train, coach and counsel them. We help them organize and work in our standards. There may come a time when we have to let those who fail to meet our expectations."

To apply these corporate strategies to home, Francis came up with a book, "Keep It Together (IIT): A Home Management Manual," complete with tips, schedule logs, even recipes.

She discusses weekly organizers, kitchen cabinet packing/organization, interviews with helpers and, best of all, ways for mothers to relax.

E-mail Francis Jose at lifecoach@gmail.com.

E-mail the author at thenbook@yahoo.com.

SISTERS at Sunday Mass

Learning to be . . .

From page F1

Clarify the Key Issues," "Attentive Listening," "Empathy and How to Communicate Understanding of Feelings" and "Probing and Challenging Skills."

Rivera says networking and helpful word-sharing sessions held under guarantee in the beautiful monastery in the hills.

As they listened to one another's experiences, participants realized they were not alone in their difficulties. The exercises afforded them an expanded vision of the work they were doing in their communities.

Pleasantly experience

The Fiat is different because it is not only a seminar workshops or religious formation but also a monastic experience.

Participants join the monks in their monastic liturgy and experience the peace, quiet and beauty of nature in the Benedictine monastery.

Monsignor Mercadejas said religious formation itself to be able to lead their formands to integrate the many aspects of life. "Caring to listen," he said. "Manner of being in general in body ground."

The only way to learn the skill is to do it over and over again, until you become attuned to what is going on.

Bugo said to be able to help it was very important to identify and explore specific issues related to a problem. A good formator would be able to do this, she said, only if he/she knew how to use empathic, probing and challenging.

Since formation is about accompanying the formand on the human journey, it is important that he/she or from basic helping skills.

In my talk, I said, over and above these acquired skills, it was important for a formator to be authentic in one's personality and a true believer of Christ.

Rivera felt people should always be aware that whatever they do, their personhood, and should present itself as a living sign of God and as disciples, although often silent, proclamation of the Gospel, I said.

Without this, I emphasized, we could not even begin to start any work as formators.

If formators were not demonstrating the tenets and values they professed and people under their care would not be motivated to live them either, Rivera said.

(Fiat 2010 will offer the same program, "Helping Skills for Religious Formators," May 2-7, 2010. For more information, text Zeny Alfaro in Clarkin ORE at 0917-5105585 or 0927-8166365 E-mail: zenyalfaro@yahoo.com)

HOSPITALITY: Superior Fr. Sonio Ma. Tecson, OSB, with social psychologist Cynthia Bugo

Are male teachers an endangered species?

From page F4

the internet, electronics, machine shop practice, woodwork and drafting.

Kindergarten, who trained all teens up in a barrio school teacher to beliefs, said in the early 1960s at the Don Philippine Normal College (now university), only four of the 45 students in her class were men.

Garcia, former Commission on Higher Education chair, said there seemed to be a cultural bias against teaching as a profession for men. Many people, she said, thought of teaching as "pang-babae" (only for women).

PNU president Lagunda theorized that girls are faster learners and agreed fewer men were taking up education.

DepEd Undersecretary Alma Labrador stressed the need to encourage male high school graduates to take up education, saying there were subjects, like industrial arts, that could best be taught by men.

"We no longer hardly see wood (in male teachers)—either and a boys...in the school. But (as) children, one who could be at risk could be here," she said.

Lopez said, with teachers being "among the lowest-paid professionals", men who were after the male breadwinners in their families, were reluctant to go into teaching.

Although the Bacolod lawmaker sees being addressed, the secretary said there was little filed bond the current situation would change in the near future.

Antonio Tinio, chair of the national Alliance of Concerned Teachers, said teaching had always been a female-dominated profession, an extension of the mother's nurturing role in the family.

But Tinio, a UP Diliman instructor, noted that, despite the small number of male teachers, most women have likely to hold management positions. He said that in were more male principals and other school officials. Most educators and unions had been mostly men, he pointed out.

Rhett Hilario, the only male teacher at Baghdad Elementary School in Pasolo, Princess City said he got into teaching when he told people his job. But the 23-year-old Hilario 4 teacher said he was happy and proud to be part of what was considered the noblest profession.

Annual networking skills contest names winners

ANN PAGE/PEW AND MAPUA Institute of Technology were awarded champions in the advanced and basic categories, respectively, of the recent Networking Academy Skills Competition at Holy Angel University in Pampanga.

Team AMA Batelec 01 received P40,000 from the Cisco Networking Academy Consortium Philippines during the Luzon competition at Holy Angel University.

Team AMA Batelec 01 received P40,000 from the Cisco Networking Academy Consortium Philippines during the Luzon competition at Holy Angel University in Pampanga

Are male teachers an endangered species?

By Jerry E. Esplanada

IN THE LAST Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET), a total of 26,912 took the elementary level test while 23,975 took the secondary level exam.

Only one male examinee—Glenn Ong Jr. from Ilo-ilo, a graduate of St. Anthony's College in Antique—made it to the top 10 in the elementary level.

In the secondary level, 21 of the 28 topnotchers were men, including Benedict Barsenga of Central Luzon University and Gerard Vincent Mendoza of the University of the Philippines Diliman who tied for first place.

Out of the total 50,787 who took the April LET, 3,456 men passed the test or 22.8 percent of the total passers of 15,164. More men passed the high school test—2,294 or 37.39 percent of the total passers in that level—compared to the 1,264 or 18.9 percent of total passers in the elementary level.

Professional Regulation Commissioner Milo L. Rosario-Jones "made teachers care for an ailing, caring and competent mother-female counterparts."

But male teachers, especially in public schools, had become an "endangered species," said Rosario, the PRC commissioner in charge of the teaching, engineering and accounting professions.

The last male president of the state-run Philippine Normal University and nonbeneficiary of the Department of Education-initiated relief seemed to be a perception shared by many people that teaching was a profession primarily for women.

In the recent earthquake of Bicol who joined the April LET

CIPRIANO Paraligan, who teaches math and man's education and values at Ars., is the only male among 19 teachers at Nasa Elementary School in Bonanga City.

ELMER Mario is the only male in the 13-member teaching force of Tagbaros Elementary School in Puerto Princesa City.

IN THIS photo at the recent graduating class only licensed teachers, the men don't seem to be outnumbered but in the total picture, only a fourth of total April LET passers are men.

Women powered

Deped records furnished to the Inquirer showed that 423,549, or 86.1 percent, of 491,930 teachers in public elementary and high schools all over the country were women.

Male teachers totaled 67,799 —56,000 in the primary level and 11,400 in the secondary level—or 13.7 percent of the total.

The Deped said the proportion of men to women teachers in individual provinces did not differ much from the national ratio.

Between 1998 and 2006, men topped the list of provinces with the most number of male public school teachers. Deped data showed. It was followed by Camiguin (911), Siquijor (1194), Apayao (1419), Ifugao (1477), Antique (1694), Kalinga (1836), Biliran (1895), Quirino (2110), and Mt. Province (2121).

Bongabong (3,092) topped the list of provinces with the most number of male teachers, followed by Boac (3,080), Gubat (2,272), Magsaysay Occidental (1,545), Carmen-Davao (1,515), Bansalan-Davao (1,494), Bacolongo-Del Sur (1,440), Isabela (1,423), Leyte (1,422), and Nueva Ecija (1,293).

The Deped has yet to release data on the teacher population in private schools. Over the years, the teaching profession had apparently failed to attract men to male teachers, Lopez said.

His observation was shared by Ignacio Bisa, retired dean of technical education at the former Philippine Normal Institute of Technology (now Philippine Normal University). Professional Regulation Commissioner Milo Nicolas Lopez, Jr., Deped Secretary Jesli Lapus, and Undersecretary of the East Asia Education Foundation.

Bisa, now 81, said there seemed to have been a shortage of male teachers for decades. He said in his nearly 40 years at the PNIMTE, academic subjects were handled mainly by female teachers while the men were in charge of vocational courses.

MICHAELA TI

Journalism's loss is education's gain

Text and photos by Linda B. Bobis

WHILE MANY PEOPLE HALF her age cannot wait to retire, are bored with their jobs or still do not know what they really want to do, Dr. Tita Rosa Lubiri wishes that one be back in the classroom teaching.

But she does not want to counter anyone who are new and more complicated guiding system. Nor does she have the patience for all the paperwork—the reports, the minutes and books. Her report cards, for example, she will be 88 years old in August, has to be written in ink and though not a teacher anymore.

She is currently principal of the aptly named Bank Romance Department, a nursing course in Puerto Princesa's high school, and is historian now of the private Palawan Polytechnic College, Inc. in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

It must be genetics. Both of Fernandez's parents were teachers.

Orphaned early, Fernandez had childhood dreams of becoming a journalist. But the same who raised her, it was, suggested she take up education instead.

She finished the two-year Elementary Teaching Course at the Virgin of Carmel University in Batangas as a working student, teaching kindergarten and preschool.

At 20, with her newly minted teaching certificate, she returned to her native Cuyo and was assigned to teach at an extension class in a remote barrio of Cuyo's elementary school.

It was such an enjoyable stay, just knowing that she was headed. Through the rough-and-tumble of her students were old as that her and treated her with utmost respect and affection.

Fish for Ma'am

The students were desperate people who had to stop schooling because of the need to earn a living. In their small 20s and even 30s, they would ask Ma'am to go home early on Fridays so they could go fishing.

On Monday, they would show their gratitude by bringing her freshly caught or dried fish.

Eventually she would move to Cuyo General School, teaching Grades II to VI classes.

Fernandez, who learned to play the piano early on from her mother, would later pursue a Bachelor of Elementary Education Degree, major in music, followed by a master's degree in Administration.

Fernandez's love to education was straightforward when she married another teacher. Now three of her six children are also teachers.

Even when she was holding supervisory positions, her most enjoyable moments where those spent in classrooms watching teachers guide students from before their students' eyes.

"Teaching is still a noble profession," Fernandez explained her lifelong commitment to education. "There will be no engineers, no doctors, no lawyers without teachers."

For Fernandez, there is no better motivation for a teacher than to know that he sees she does have done well.

She learned early to take up the so-called four Palawan's current governor, Joel Reyes, her

FERNANDEZ'S latest book is ready for publication.

students in 4th grade, would acknowledge later: "I owe my former teacher" —as public knowledge.

Another former students, she said, are now scattered found in the United States. Several had become Department of Education superintendents.

"So teachers, we are happy we are not students anymore," she said.

Fernandez said she would still teachers who could not wait to retire, "You are foolish."

Better off today

Though she admitted teaching was more difficult now because students were expressive more distractions (some of their students at PCC) speak out that

top three boxes by climbing the fences so they can play video games in nearby Internet cafés), she also believed teachers were better off now than before.

"They have more benefits. Salaries are raised more often now than before," she said.

Fernandez said requiring prospective teachers to pass the Licensure Examination for Teachers was also a big boost not only in giving increased status to the profession, but also in improving the quality of tutors.

Those who joined the LET, she said, were "true inspiring future trend people" (better than those who did not qualify).

She also believed that teachers are not underpaid. Basic salary she would find it easier to handle their classes. "I liked my children. They were not problem children. I loved and respected them," she said.

Now Fernandez is happy to learn that a granddaughter appears to be a teacher. It was a pleasure to see her coaching Bad Valley's young people some

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Outstanding students to be presented to GMA

THE TEN OUTSTANDING students of the Philippines (TOSP) students will be presented to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo [illegible] July 2 in Malacañang Palace.

The top ten will be chosen from [illegible] finalists: Jaella Tara Acosta, Manuel Bandoquillo III, Abbie Jo Therese Ann Lyndie Arcon, Tiffany Bonifacio Aberdeen, Stephen Jerome Gregorio Baltazar, Benedict Daniel Bautista, Airen Faith Garcia Bernardo, Jesse Reuben Mabaeg Bacolor, Rufus Arnel Ejercito Batocabe, Emerson Gatmaitan Aranjuez Buenaseda, Marie Ryder Bantuson Bolos, Stephen Michael Ryan Cu, Ana Reynaldes Dowell, Ahmad Mawal Dimaolo, Heather Lourdes Limcolin Dayanghirang, Rose-Ann Joy Berdin Quinsaburong, Marcelo Miss Rivera, Roger Hidalgo Feroza, Athena Garcia Fidalgo, Jhemuel Buenaventura, [illegible] Carvajal, Jr., Miguel Antonio Herrera, Sabrina Ferreras Carvajal, Jr., Paul John Bandana Bella, John Stephen Tampoco Hortinela, Mark Kenneth Victa Bahan Llanes, Adrian Clark Ilan Pascual Manalo, Joseph Angelou Regan Ng, Jamie Espiritu Pining, Flynn Jay Yong Bermudez, Richard Daniel Concepcion Sycip, Jr., Arnel Ned Hidalgo Abong, Rhenz Marie Bagaoi Abarca, and Nicole Frances Tampoco Ledesma.